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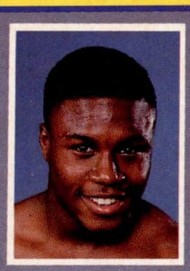

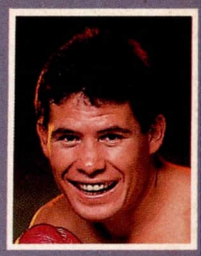

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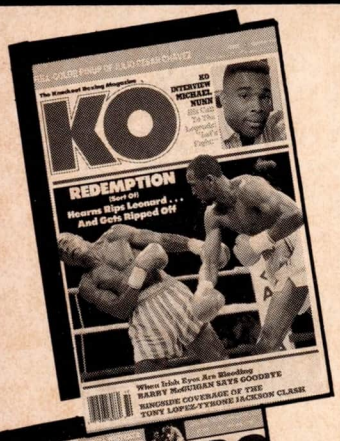

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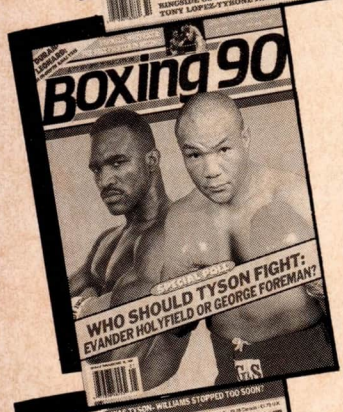

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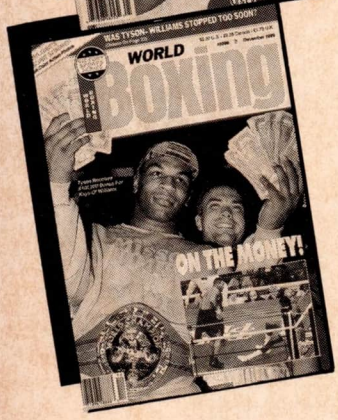

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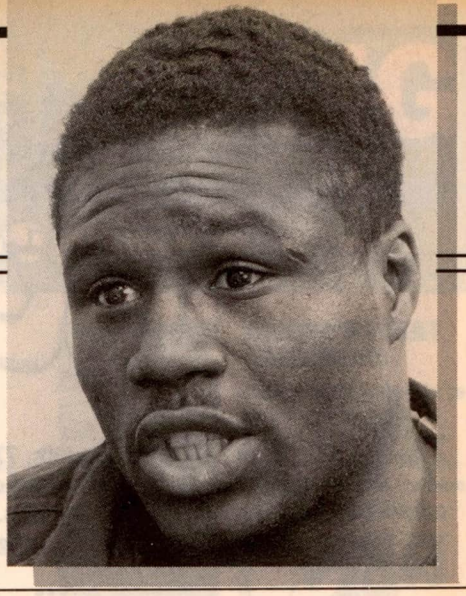

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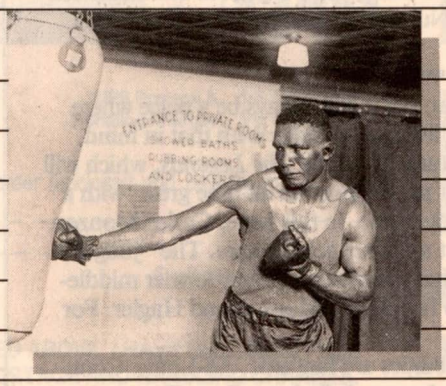

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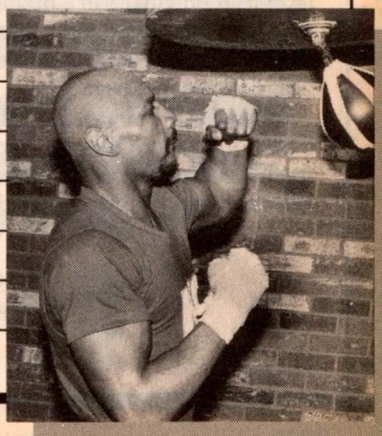
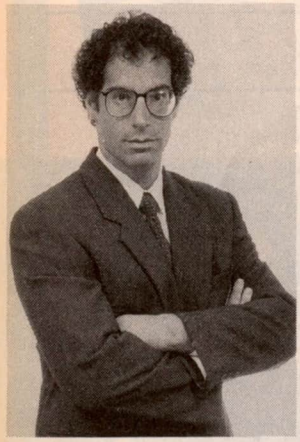


RINGSIDE

AS BOXING ENTERS the '90s, *The Ring* continues to grow. Beginning with this issue, we've added eight pages. Now *The Ring* is not only better, but bigger as well. More stories. More nostalgia. More fight analyses. More photos. And more of the boxing action you can find only in *The Ring*.

***

It was fitting that Sugar Ray Leonard, the Fighter of the Decade, closed the '80s with a masterful performance against Roberto Duran. But The Fighter of the Year, and a fighter for the '90s, is WBC and IBF lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker. At the start of the year, Whitaker was a gifted albeit fragile contender who seemed jinxed by injuries and myopic judges. (He clearly outboxed then-champion Jose Luis Ramirez in 1988, but was denied the decision.) But after dethroning Greg Haugen in February, demolishing Louie Lomeli in April, and gaining justice with a shutout points win over Ramirez in August, the slick southpaw has established himself as one of the top titlists in boxing. And given Whitaker's schedule, which includes bouts with Edwin Rosario and Azumah Nelson, he could be the Fighter of the Year in 1990 as well.



Managing Editor Jeff Ryan visited with Whitaker in the champion's hometown of Norfolk, Virginia. Read Ryan's revealing profile on page 38.

The Ring's other selections for 1989: Fight of the Year: Roberto Duran W 12 Iran Barkley; Upset of the Year: Rene Jacquot W 12 Donald Curry; Round of the Year: Lupe Gutierrez-Jeff Franklin, round 12; Kayo of the Year: Michael Nunn KO 1 Sumbu Kalambay; Most Improved Fighter: Jorge Paez.

***

The Ring changes from issue to issue, but it will always be a place where boxing history and today's fight game live side by side. With that in mind, we're introducing yet another new feature, *Battle Of The Legends*, which will pit a champion of the present or recent past against an all-time great, with a panel of three "judges" to decide the outcome. In this issue, Carlos Monzon faces Marvin Hagler in a middleweight matchup for the ages. The "judges" are promoter Russell Peltz, boxing writer Mike Marley, and former middleweight contender Bennie Briscoe, who faced both Monzon and Hagler. For their decision, see page 32.

In *Battle Of The Legends,* the possibilities are fantastic. Ali-Louis. Conn-Foster. Chandler-Olivares. Armstrong-Leonard. Pedroza-Pep. Chavez-Arguello. Play matchmaker and write in with your suggestions. I hope you'll agree that this feature is an exciting addition to *The Ring*.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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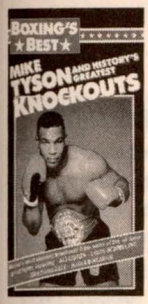

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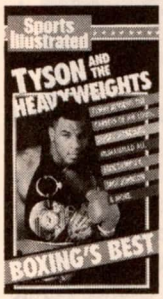

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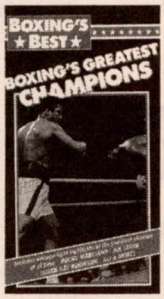

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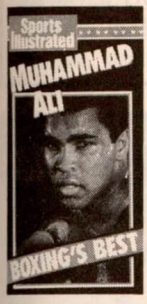

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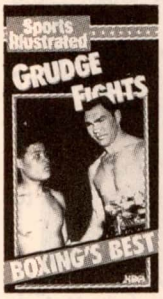

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COME OUT WRITING

The Ring welcomes comments, questions, and criticism. Send your letters to The Ring, 55 Maple Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

GOODNESS AND GREATNESS

I was very glad to see that *The Ring* is once again being published, as it has always been my favorite boxing book. But along with the thanks, you must hear the complaints.

Jeff Ryan made a couple of contradictory, inane comments in his column *(Ryan Out Loud, The Ring,* January 1990). First, Ryan stated how he rewards greatness over a short period of time rather than "goodness" (great word) over a long haul. He then goes on to state how mediocre Wilfredo Gomez was against a hot-and-cold Juan LaPorte, how Gomez beat a blown-up Lupe Pintor, and how Gomez lost to Salvador Sanchez. Why was there no mention of Gomez' fight with Carlos Zarate?

Ryan then goes on to claim how great Benitez was in beating a "still-tough" Duran, and Benitez' brilliance against Antonio Cervantes.

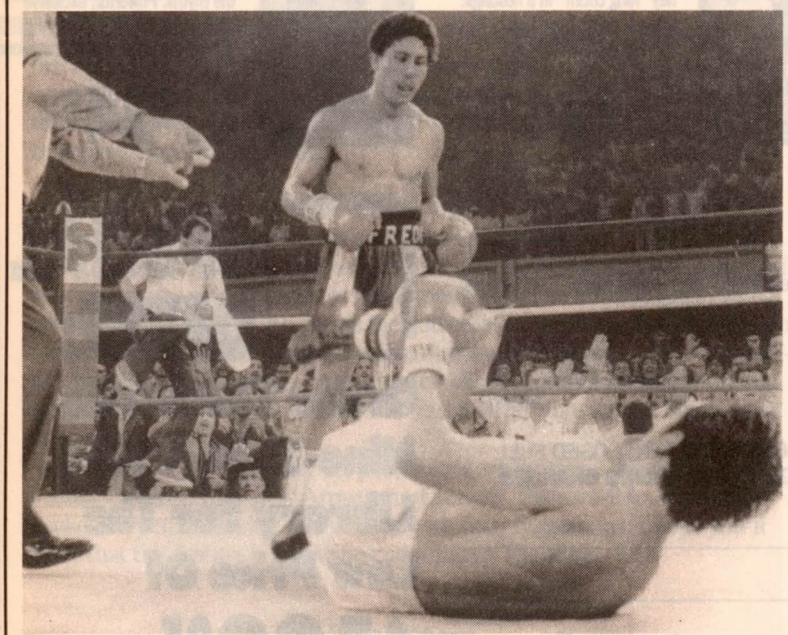
Consider that the Gomez-Zarate fight was as significant, or more significant, than Benitez-Cervantes. And Zarate was 51-0 and in his prime.

Why the hot-and-cold comment about LaPorte when the "still-tough" Duran is probably the most hot-and-cold fighter in history?

Why mention Gomez' loss to Sanchez and not mention Benitez' loss to Matthew Hilton?

Why a mention that Pintor was a bantamweight rising in weight to fight Gomez (only four pounds), without mentioning that against Benitez, Duran was *three* divisions above his natural weight?

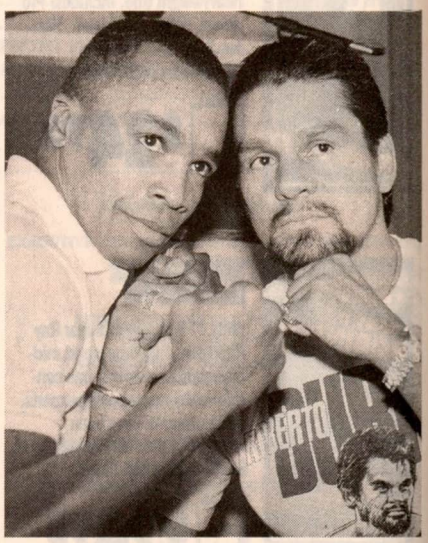
JEFFREY L. KUYRE
Evanston, IL



Wilfredo Gomez kayos Carlos Zarate in October 1978. Given Zarate's record of 51-0, the bout, according to reader Jeffrey L. Kuyre, was quite significant.

DISAPPOINTED AND DISGUSTED

I just watched the Leonard-Duran fight on HBO, and announcers Jim Lampley and Larry Merchant made me sick, just as Leonard did. Sugar Ray plainly stated, "The hell with the crowd." I don't know about every other person that it takes to make up a paying crowd, but I'll never pay to see Ray Leonard again, or buy anything that he endorses.



Too bad Leonard and Duran never got this close during *Uno Mas.* Their third battle, a financial blockbuster, was nearly void of action.

It didn't take long to see that Leonard didn't want to fight. Maybe when he retires, boxing can get back to where it has been, where two men fight to see who is better. Leonard, you deserved every boo you got, and every stitch, too!

BILLY D. FRAZIER
Bennettsville, SC

BET THE UNDERDOG

I was in Las Vegas for the disappointing Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran bout, and while there, I saw the odds posted on the March junior welterweight title fight between co-champi-

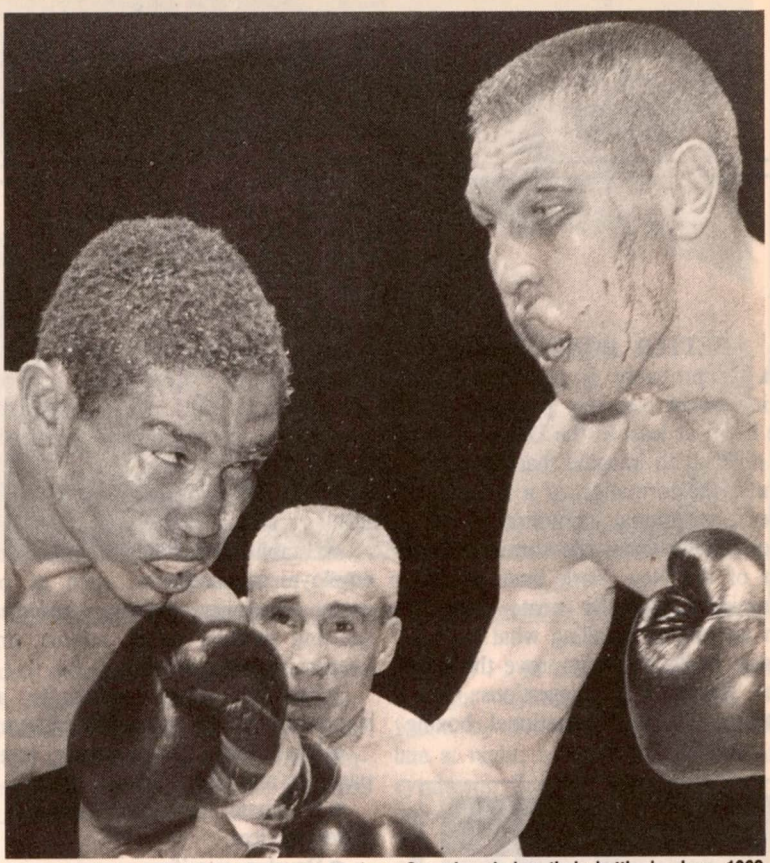
ons Meldrick Taylor and Julio Cesar Chavez. I couldn't believe that Chavez was almost a 2-1 favorite! Are the oddsmakers crazy, or is the public really planning on betting good, hard-earned cash on Chavez? The fight should be pick'em, and my money has already gone on Taylor.

Against Sammy Fuentes, Chavez showed why he'll never beat Taylor. Chavez is a methodical and accurate puncher, but against Taylor's speed and movement, he'll become impotent. (Taylor-Chavez could be similar to Leonard-Duran III, though Chavez should be a bit more effective than Duran was.)

And while Chavez has a fantastic record, other fighters with such records met defeat after facing outstanding competition. Carlos Zarate looked unbeatable before challenging Wilfredo Gomez, and Gomez seemed superior until he met Salvador Sanchez. Interestingly, both Zarate and Gomez took their initial losses after moving up in weight. And Chavez, of course, isn't a natural junior welterweight.

Taylor by decision. All the way to the bank.

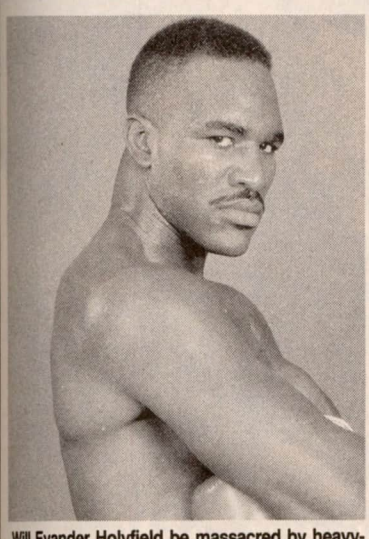
CARLOS SAVIG
Lafayette, LA



A bloodied Joey Archer strikes against Jose Gonzalez during their battle in June 1962. Gonzalez won by split decision. It was middleweight Archer's first loss in 31 bouts.

HEAVYWEIGHT MISMATCH?

After watching the Evander Holyfield-Alex Stewart fight, I was convinced of two things. First, Holyfield should not be rated the number-one contender for Tyson's crown. And two, when he does face Tyson, he'll be dismantled inside of two rounds.



Will Evander Holyfield be massacred by heavyweight champion Mike Tyson? Reader Kevin O'Brien thinks the matchup is a mismatch.

Holyfield struggled against Stewart and Michael Dokes, both of whom Tyson would destroy. Don't get me wrong: Evander is a great boxer with developing skills and tremendous heart. But anyone who thinks he can defeat Tyson doesn't know much about boxing.

As weak as the division is, a number-one contender had to be created. Look at Holyfield's credentials. James Tillis and Pinklon Thomas quit against him. Dokes, in his second career, ran out of gas. And Adilson Rodrigues was a nobody.

When Tyson and Holyfield get it on in the ring, Tyson will swarm all over "The Real Deal" with pressure. As soon as Tyson lands his first left hook or right cross, the fight will be over. Evander is good, but against Tyson, he'll meet his first loss the hard way.

KEVIN O'BRIEN
Atlantic City, NJ

REMEMBERING ARCHER

What has become of former middleweight contender Joey Archer? In the ring, Archer was a clever and lightning-quick stylist who zoomed through the middleweight division and extinguished many of the bright stars who made up the 160-pound galaxy in the '60s.

In a long and highly successful career, Archer's talents were showcased on many occasions, but especially when he defeated three former world champions, Denny Moyer, Dick Tiger, and Sugar Ray Robinson.

Archer was a consummate boxer who totally overwhelmed his opponents with his speed of hand and foot and superior ring generalship. He was so fleet-footed that he used to make his opponents look like they were fighting in slow motion.

I think it's unfair to forget a fighter of Archer's stature while others are remembered.

JACK MONROE
Devon, CT

Editor's Note: ***The Ring*** *correspondent Angelo Prospero reports that Archer currently lives in New York City, as does his brother, Jimmy Archer, who was a talented pro lightweight.* □

ROUND ONE

A BETTER BOXING WORLD: It's probably a pipedream, but boxing might someday properly organize itself, at least in the United States. It's difficult to imagine that happening without the formation of a federal, or at least a national, commission.

John R. Branca, the former Chairman of the New York State Athletic Commission, recently wrote Congress with an outline detailing what a commission could do to improve the fight game. Some of his suggestions:

- Conduct an international boxing and medical seminar.

John Branca

- Organize and conduct a boxing telethon and fundraising program to aid fighters, young and old, who need some form of assistance.
- Develop a national and worldwide computer data bank network.
- Provide educational, employment, and legal services for boxers.
- Establish a national boxing library and research and information center.
- Establish an international boxing hall of fame.
- Establish a national uniform system for ranking fighters.
- Organize a committee to develop boxing programs on the high school, collegiate, and amateur levels.
- Solicit the support of celebrities and public officials to assist the boxing profession in promoting a positive image.
- Develop a program to assist the small promoter and small clubs.
- Establish standards for all boxing employment categories, such as promoter, manager, trainer, cornerman, sparring partner, judge, referee, timekeeper, ringside physician, etc.
- Establish rules, regulations, and standards for the operation of gyms.
- Implement a world-wide boxing passport and identification system.
- Eliminate promoter options on boxer services.
- Develop a uniform scoring system.
- Provide investigatory services.

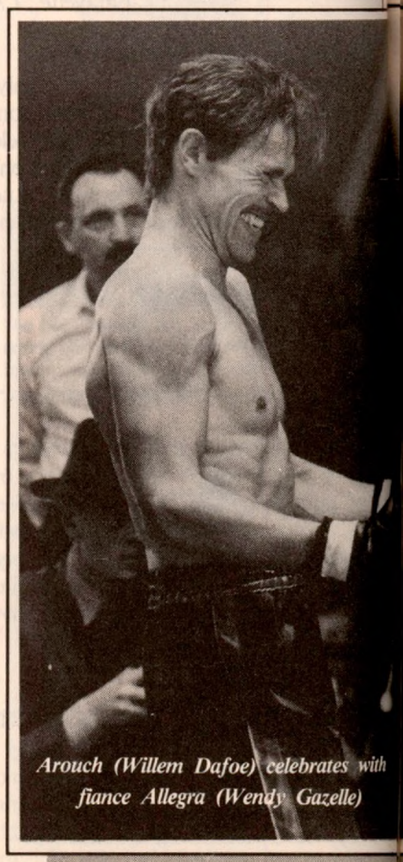
If nothing else, Branca is ambitious. His plan would cost big dollars, and that alone would likely scare off Congress. But should Washington's legislators ever rearrange their priorities and deem boxing worthy of some attention, the tax dollars would certainly be well-spent.

AT THE FLICKS: *Triumph Of The Spirit* isn't really a boxing movie, but its star, Oscar-nominee Willem Dafoe, could've been a boxer. That's because authenticity is at the core of this film, the true-life story of Salamo Arouch, a Greek stevedore who was also the lightweight champion of the Balkans. During World War II, Arouch and his family were taken to the infamous Polish concentration camp, Auschwitz-Birkenau, where he literally fought for his life. The film was shot on location at Auschwitz. (The real-life Arouch was ringside in Las Vegas at the Leonard-Duran match.)

In preparation for the role, Dafoe worked for several weeks with New York trainer Teddy Atlas. On-screen, Dafoe seems painfully thin to be a winning fighter. But he learned his lessons well. There are only three or four boxing scenes in the movie (in one of them, Dafoe, who is permitted to live only as long as he knocks out his opponents, knocks out Atlas). Dafoe, however, is convincing in each of them, and he puts together his punches in a very real way.

If you go and see *Triumph Of The Spirit* for the boxing angle, you'll be disappointed. But it is a beautifully made, albeit horribly depressing, film that is worth seeing at any level.

AND THE WINNER IS . . . It may eventually take different kinds of judges—State Supreme Court judges—to decide the outcome of December's middleweight bout in Albany between New Yorkers Michael Olajide and Dennis Milton.



Arouch (Willem Dafoe) celebrates with fiance Allegra (Wendy Gazelle)

The scenario: Entering the 10th and final round, Milton had built a points lead on two of the three cards. But toward the end of the 10th, Olajide staggered an exhausted Milton, who accepted a standing eight-count from referee Ken Zimmer. Immediately after the count, Zimmer stepped in and waved the fight over. It wasn't that he was rescuing Milton, the referee claimed, but rather that he *thought* he heard the final bell. There were still three seconds left in the fight.

The bout was originally declared a split decision victory for Milton, and then changed to a no decision, pending a hearing by the New York State Athletic Commission. At that hearing, Zimmer reiterated under oath that he had not stopped the fight in order to award Olajide a TKO victory.

After reviewing a tape of the fight, Commission Chairman Randy Gordon voted to declare a no contest, but commissioner James Dupree voted to reinstate the judges' split decision for Milton. (The third commissioner, Rose Trentman, disqualified herself because she and Milton employ the same lawyer.) Because a majority vote was needed to overturn the original decision, Milton was declared the winner.

Milton jabs at Olajide before the chaos begins

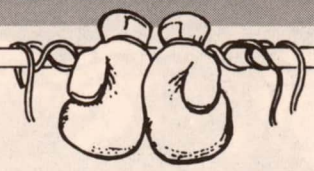
Michael DiRaimondo, Olajide's attorney, said he would appeal the commission's decision to the State Supreme Court.

OUTSIDE THE ROPES: British promoter Frank Warren was shot in the chest and abdomen by a single gunman in London. He was taken to a hospital, where he had surgery. A week after the operation, Warren, a self-made millionaire, was reportedly doing business from his hospital bed . . . Another promoter, Miami-based Cuban Willy Martinez, pleaded guilty in the first of two federal narcotics cases in which he is charged. Martinez was charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine with intent to distribute and with causing people to travel in furtherance of a money-laundering scheme . . . Tony Tubbs, who won the NABF heavyweight title with a decision over Orlin Norris in November, failed his postfight urinalysis for cocaine. The California commission was expected to reverse the fight's decision . . . Reportedly eyeing comebacks: Las Vegas-based former heavyweight contender Jerry Quarry, 42, and former junior featherweight champion Sergio Palma, 34 . . . NBC has signed IBF featherweight champion Jorge Paez to a four-fight deal for 1990. No word on what's in it for Paez' tailor . . . Sandra Ledoux, the wife of former heavyweight contender Scott Ledoux, died at age 42 after a 10-year struggle with cancer . . . In early-November, featherweight legend Sandy Saddler was found by Brooklyn police wandering late at night, robbed of his wallet and eyeglasses. Saddler subsequently spent several weeks in a hospital, where, his son says, he was diagnosed as having a form of dementia, which causes a deterioration of memory . . . Henry Hearns, the brother of Thomas Hearns, was convicted of second-degree murder for shooting his fiance two nights before Hearns' June draw with Sugar Ray Leonard . . . Still going strong: Miami's 82-year-old Chris Dundee, who plans to bring British welterweight Pat Barrett to the United States.

THE PUNCHLINE: From our ever-expanding It-Would-Never-Happen-In-Baseball file comes this paragraph from the November 24 edition of *Newsday:* "Former featherweight champion Juan LaPorte, whc tragically lost his seven-year-old son in a drowning accident last year, has left Brooklyn to live in Ridgefield, Utah, where he beat Robin Ellis last month. Next month, LaPorte will go to Australia to fight a tuneup that could lead to a title shot against WBC junior lightweight champ Jeff Fenech in the spring."

First of all, Fenech is the WBC featherweight champion, not the junior lightweight champion. But better yet, the fighter LaPorte beat in Utah (on October 12) was Mexico's *Bruno Rabanales,* and not Robin Ellis. *Phew!*□

THE RING RATINGS



HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY *(World Champ) 37-0*

2 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *23-0*

3 **MICHAEL DOKES**
Las Vegas, NV *40-2-2*

4 **FRANCESCO DAMIANI**
Italy *25-0*

5 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *30-3*

6 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *22-1*

7 **BUSTER DOUGLAS**
Columbus, OH *29-4-1*

8 **CARL WILLIAMS**
White Plains, NY *22-3*

9 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *22-1-1*

10 **GARY MASON**
England *33-0*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **CARLOS DeLEON**
Puerto Rico *(WBC Champ) 42-5*

2 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *28-1*

3 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI**
Cherry Hill, NJ *32-7-1*

5 **GLENN McCRORY**
England *(IBF Champ) 27-5*

6 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *15-1*

7 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *26-1*

8 **PATRICK LUMUMBA**
Kenya *9-3*

9 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *10-1*

10 **SAMMY REESON**
England *24-2*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **VIRGIL HILL**
Las Vegas, NV *(WBA Champ) 26-0*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Broomall, PA *(IBF Champ) 27-4-2*

3 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *17-0*

4 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *(WBC Champ) 16-0*

5 **FRANKIE SWINDELL**
Houston, TX *18-3*

6 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *35-8-2*

7 **LESLIE STEWART**
Trinidad & Tobago *27-5*

8 **JOE LASISI**
Las Vegas, NV *20-1*

9 **MIKE SEDILLO**
Chino, CA *22-6*

10 **URIAH GRANT**
Miami Beach, FL *17-6*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit 168 pounds

1 **RAY LEONARD**
Potomac, MD *(WBC Champ) 36-1-1*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Las Vegas, NV *46-3-1*

3 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *24-1*

4 **IN CHUL BAEK**
South Korea *(WBA Champ) 46-2*

5 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *25-0*

6 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *40-5-1*

7 **TONY BYRD**
Los Angeles, CA *15-1-1*

8 **JAMES KINCHEN**
San Diego, CA *46-7-2*

9 **FULGENCIO OBELMEJIAS**
Venezuela *49-5*

10 **VICTOR CORDOVA**
Panama *10-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *(IBF & WBC Champ) 20-1*

2 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *(WBA Champ) 35-3*

3 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *23-2-1*

4 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *24-16-3*

5 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *23-0*

6 **JOHN DUPLESSIS**
New Orleans, LA *31-1*

7 **DAVID GONZALES**
San Jose, CA *23-1-1*

8 **LOUIE LOMELI**
Melrose Park, IL *25-1*

9 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *15-1*

10 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *27-0*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *(WBC Champ) 31-1*

2 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *(WBA Champ) 40-1-2*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *(IBF Champ) 20-2*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *24-0*

5 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *33-2*

6 **LUPE SUAREZ**
Corpus Christi, TX *28-2*

7 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *18-0*

8 **CALVIN GROVE**
Pottstown, PA *36-2*

9 **JUAN LaPORTE**
New York, NY *35-9*

10 **MARIO MARTINEZ**
Mexico *47-6-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Venezuela *(WBA Champ) 29-1-4*

2 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *(WBC Champ) 24-0*

3 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *(IBF Champ) 33-2-2*

4 **LOUIE ESPINOZA**
Phoenix, AZ *35-3-1*

5 **MAURIZIO STECCA**
Italy *36-1*

6 **MARCOS VILLASANA**
Mexico *49-7-2*

7 **GEORGIE NAVARRO**
Vineland, NJ *19-3*

8 **TROY DORSEY**
Dallas, TX *11-2-2*

9 **RICARDO CEPEDA**
Bronx, NY *14-0-1*

10 **PAUL HODKINSON**
England *16-0-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
Mexico *(WBC Champ) 40-4-1*

2 **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA *(WBA Champ) 31-3*

3 **SEUNG HOON LEE**
South Korea *44-6-1*

4 **JUAN JOSE ESTRADA**
Mexico *36-8*

5 **FABRICE BENICHOU**
France *(IBF Champ) 29-5*

6 **KENNY MITCHELL**
Houston, TX *20-8-3*

7 **PEDRO DECIMA**
Argentina *23-2*

8 **PAUL BANKE**
Quail Valley, CA *17-4*

9 **JOSE SANABRIA**
Venezuela *16-4-2*

10 **JESSE BENAVIDES**
Corpus Christi, TX *27-1*

Records Compiled By Eric Armit

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

- In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.
- Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.
- These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

For Period Ended December 20, 1989

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Los Angeles, CA *(IBF Champ) 34-0*

2 **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
Italy *47-4-1*

3 **MIKE McCALLUM**
Brooklyn, NY *(WBA Champ) 36-1*

4 **ROBERTO DURAN**
Miami, FL *(WBC Champ) 85-8*

5 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *25-6*

6 **MICHAEL WATSON**
England *22-1-1*

7 **HEROL GRAHAM**
England *42-2*

8 **STEVE COLLINS**
Brockton, MA *16-0*

9 **NIGEL BENN**
England *24-1*

10 **DENNIS MILTON**
Bronx, NY *14-2-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Virgin Islands *(WBA Champ) 38-1*

2 **JOHN MUGABI**
Tampa, FL *(WBC Champ) 35-2*

3 **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy *(IBF Champ) 47-3*

4 **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
Detroit, MI *19-0*

5 **TERRY NORRIS**
Campo, CA *24-3*

6 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *42-1*

7 **ROBERT HINES**
Philadelphia, PA *25-2-1*

8 **RENE JACQUOT**
France *25-7-1*

9 **DONALD CURRY**
Fort Worth, TX *31-3*

10 **CHRIS PYATT**
England *29-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MARLON STARLING**
South Windsor, CT *(WBC Champ) 45-5-1*

2 **SIMON BROWN**
Washington, D.C. *(IBF Champ) 31-1*

3 **LLOYD HONEYGHAN**
England *34-2*

4 **MARK BRELAND**
Brooklyn, NY *(WBA Champ) 26-1-1*

5 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Brentwood, NY *46-2-1*

6 **TYRONE TRICE**
France *35-2*

7 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Washington, D.C. *30-1*

8 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfeild, NJ *27-1*

9 **AARON DAVIS**
Bronx, NY *26-0*

10 **NINO LaROCCA**
Italy *74-4*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *(WBC Champ) 66-0*

2 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Philadelphia, PA *(IBF Champ) 23-0-1*

3 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *(WBA Champ) 42-1-2*

4 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *34-6*

5 **RAS-I BRAMBLE**
Hampton Township, NJ *29-3-2*

6 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *25-1-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *36-0*

8 **FRANKIE RANDALL**
Morristown, TN *40-2-1*

9 **SAMMY FUENTES**
Puerto Rico *20-7-1*

10 **JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ**
France *104-8*

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **RAUL PEREZ**
Mexico *(WBC Champ) 45-1-1*

2 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *(IBF Champ) 22-1-1*

3 **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
Philippines *(WBA Champ) 23-5*

4 **GERARDO MARTINEZ**
San Jose, CA *24-0*

5 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *32-2-1*

6 **KAOKOR GALAXY**
Thailand *24-2*

7 **MOON SUNG KIL**
South Korea *10-1*

8 **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
Puerto Rico *27-3-3*

9 **PEPILLO VALDEZ**
Mexico *35-3*

10 **HURLEY SNEAD**
Detroit, MI *39-2-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Thailand *(WBA Champ) 42-1*

2 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *(WBC Champ) 18-0-1*

3 **GILBERTO ROMAN**
Mexico *53-5-1*

4 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *15-2*

5 **JUAN POLO**
Colombia *(IBF Champ) 27-5-2*

6 **THANOMSAK SITHBAOBEY**
Thailand *27-1*

7 **ELLY PICAL**
Indonesia *18-4*

8 **SANTOS LACIAR**
Argentina *77-9-11*

9 **YONG HEUN LEE**
South Korea *14-0*

10 **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa *24-0*

FLYWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *(WBC Champ) 19-2-1*

2 **JESUS ROJAS**
Venezuela *(WBA Champ) 19-1-1*

3 **FIDEL BASSA**
Colombia *22-1-1*

4 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *(IBF Champ) 14-2-2*

5 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *37-2*

6 **RAMON MEDEL**
San Antonio, TX *17-4*

7 **JAVIER LUCAS**
Mexico *36-5*

8 **RICHARD CLARKE**
Jamaica *22-2*

9 **LEOPARD TAMAKUMA**
Japan *25-4*

10 **ROMY NAVARETTE**
Philippines *35-9-1*

POUND FOR POUND

Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

2 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

3 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

4 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Middleweight

5 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Featherweight

6 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Junior Welterweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **RAUL PEREZ**
Bantamweight

9 **VIRGIL HILL**
Light Heavyweight

10 **MARLON STARLING**
Welterweight

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WATCHING TV

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	DIVISION	NETWORK	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
11/20/89	Meldrick Taylor KO 5 Rocky Balboa *Champ's speed on display in easy non-title tuneup*	jw	SC	B+	B-	B
11/21/89	Steve Collins KO 9 Roberto Rosiles *Only trouble with Collins: No threat of a kayo punch*	m	ESPN	B	C	C-
11/27/89	Vinny Pazienza KO 5 Eddie Van Kirk *Good, freewheeling action until one-punch kayo*	jw	SC	B-	B	B+
11/28/89	Livingstone Bramble W Disq. 6 Kenny Vice *Vice taking beating when corner surrenders*	jw	ESPN	B+	B+	B
11/30/89	Aaron Davis KO 6 Russell Mitchell *Davis starts slowly, then scores one-punch kayo*	NABF w	MSG	B+	B+	B-
12/04/89	Tim Brooks KO 10 Andres Sandoval *Bloody brawl till loser suddenly quits in last round*	jw	SC	C-	C	B+
12/07/89	**Ray Leonard W 12 Roberto Duran** *Duran impotent against slick Sugar's boxing and movement*	**WBC sm**	**PPV, HBO**	**A**	**A**	**D**
12/07/89	Andrew Maynard W 8 Mike DeVito *Maynard shows mobility in first distance bout*	lh	PPV	B-	C+	C+
12/07/89	Ray Mercer W 8 Ossie Ocasio *Split decision; inactive and overweight Ocasio still tricky*	h	PPV	B	C	C
12/07/89	Tommy Morrison W 6 Ken Lakusta *"The Duke" an easy winner in sloppy, dirty brawl*	h	PPV	C+	C	C+
12/09/89	**Jorge Paez KO 6 Lupe Gutierrez** *Gutierrez willing, but offers no discernible defense*	**IBF f**	**NBC**	**A**	**B+**	**B**
12/11/89	**Jesus Salud W Disq. 9 Juan Jose Estrada** *Low blows cost the Mexican his world title*	**WBA jf**	**PT**	**A-**	**A**	**B**
12/12/89	Owen McGeachy D 10 Vinny Burgese *Good action fight; both tire in late rounds*	jw	ESPN	C-	B	B
12/14/89	Bonecrusher Smith KO 7 Mike Rouse *Sloppy affair, with Bonecrusher pooping out early*	h	MSG	B-	B-	B-
12/19/89	Matthew Hilton D 10 Fermin Chirino *Suddenly ineffective Hilton lucky to get draw*	m	ESPN	B	B	B+

Category explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' future; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight.)

(World title fights in **bold** *type)*

Network key: PPV—Pay Per View; PT—Prime Ticket; SC—SportsChannel America; Show—Showtime

KATZ SCAN

MAKING LISTS

By Michael Katz

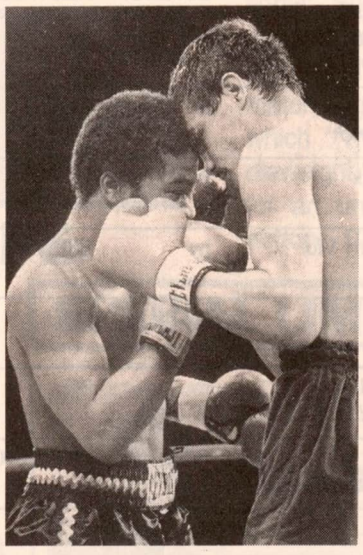
MY BRIDE THINKS I'm a sexist because I notice men and women are different. For example, making lists. My bride likes to make lists. She likes, most of all, to make lists of things for me to do. Nine times out of 10, toilet paper is an entry on her list. Women make lists of what clothes to pack, even if they're not going anywhere.

Men are more practical. We make lists that have real meaning. You won't find us niggling over the mundane. We bring order to the intangible. We arrange the universe. Women make New Year's resolutions. Men rank the stars.

We could even make a list of when would be the best time to make lists. This is something my bride, efficient though she may be, has probaby never contemplated. Quick of mind, however, she would indubitably agree that the end of one decade and the beginning of another is one of those opportune moments that calls out for lists. This column, then, is dedicated to the woman who tops my personal list—in too many categories to list.

First, a look back—in anger—in anguish, in angst. (Fill in the rest yourself.) A decade has gone. What was the top year? 1982, of course. That was the year our daughter was born. It was also an incredibly newsworthy 12 months. It may have been the year of Duk Koo Kim and Ray Leonard's detached retina, but it was also Arguello-Pryor I and Joey Curtis stopping Mike Weaver and a wonderful night in Las Vegas when Dennis Rappaport kept going, "tick-tock, tick-tock," until time ran out for Gerry Cooney.

1982 should be followed by 1981 (Holmes-Ali, but also Leonard-Hearns I), 1980 (Roberto Duran in Montreal), 1984 (the night I took on the Las Vegas police force and suffered only a wounded thumb), and 1983 (Duran's return to Madison Square Garden to beat Davey Moore).



Aaron Pryor and Alexis Arguello clash heads in the best fight of 1982, the best boxing year of the decade.

Enough living in the past. How about a list of things that should be listed in boxing, outside of fighters, like sanctioning bodies, ring announcers, and people I'd cross a street to avoid.

Sanctioning bodies: IBF, WBC, WBA, WBO.

Ring announcers: Jimmy Lennon, Jimmy Lennon Jr., the Lennon Sisters.

Reasons to cross the street: Dennis Rappaport, Duke Durden, Ruth Roper, the AMA, Pepe Cordero.

Fighters Don King screwed: Too many to mention, but any list must start with Larry Holmes, Tim Witherspoon, and Tony Tubbs.

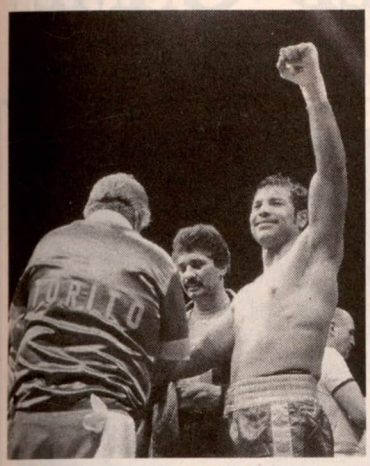
Boxing's best storytellers: Don El-

Larry Holmes got teed off at promoter Don King despite these golf course smiles. Holmes and King pictured with Sonny Werblin, former head of Madison Square Garden.

baum, Fast Eddie Schuyler of the Associated Press, Pat Putnam of *Sports Illustrated,* Eddie Futch, Ray Arcel, Mickey Duff, George Benton, Irving Rudd, Madison Square Garden's Tom Kenville. A special citation should go to Harold Smith for telling a story to Wells Fargo.

Boxing's worst storytellers: Mike Trainer, Gerry Cooney.

The biggest busts of the '80s (for assorted reasons): Tony Ayala Jr., who might have been the fighter of the decade, Aaron Pryor, ditto, Hector Camacho, ditto, Greg Page, Tim Witherspoon, and Tony Tubbs, all of whom ate themselves out of the heavyweight title, Michael Dokes, who snorted his way to the bottom, Howard Davis.



Tony Ayala Jr. couldn't control his anger outside of the ring. As a result, he turned into one of the decade's biggest busts.

Boxing's best negotiators: Don King, Mike Trainer, Shelly Finkel (especially with amateur talent), Bill Cayton.

Boxing's worst negotiators: Seth Abraham, who buys anything from Don King for HBO, Roberto Duran, Tim Witherspoon.

The great overachievers of the '80s, who got the most out of what they had: Butch Lewis, Mustafa Hamsho, Marlon Starling, Randy Gordon, Ray Mancini.

Guys you should turn to for fight advice, especially if they don't have any direct involvement: Emanuel Steward, Harold Weston Jr., Eddie Futch, Johnny Bos, Johnny Tocco, George Benton.

Guys you should listen to with a grain of salt: Angelo Dundee, Michael Katz, Teddy Brenner. Bob Arum doesn't qualify for a list limited to grains of salt.

Fighters you should be lucky enough to spend a few hours with over a long, cool one: Muhammad Ali, Leon Spinks, Mark Breland, Larry Holmes, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Sugar Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran (if you either speak Spanish or understand lions), Emile Griffith.

Funniest moments in boxing history: Duran imitating his old pet lion, Walla, the first time you hear Don King orate, any time Ed Schuyler switches from beer to Jack Daniel's.

New York boxing writers most likely to become lawyers: Phil Berger, Mike Marley, Wallace Matthews, Jose Torres.

People for whom you can't buy a cup of coffee: Jose Sulaiman.

If a friend wanted to be a professional boxer, who you should recommend as manager: Butch Lewis, Shelly Finkel, Mike Jones, Dave Wolf, Bill Cayton, Rock Newman.

For your friend's trainer: Eddie Futch, Jackie McCoy, George Benton, Teddy Atlas, Kevin Rooney, Bobby Lee Velez, Freddie Roach.

People I can listen to talk boxing without switching off the TV: Larry Merchant, Alex Wallau, Gil Clancy, Marvin Hagler, Wally Matthews.

Clown acts I'm tired of: Don King, Hector Camacho, Jorge Paez, Johnny Bos' fur coat.

Nice guys who should appear on at least one list: Mort Sharnik, Ferdie Pacheco, Bob Yalen, Ross Greenburg, Hedgemon Lewis, George Washington, Tommy Gallagher, Bobby and Murray Goodman, Ralph Citro, Steve Griffith, Tex Cobb.

Worst calls of the '80s: Jose Luis Ramirez over Pernell Whitaker in Paris, Michael Spinks over Larry Holmes (twice); Vinny Pazienza over Greg Haugen in Providence, most amateur decisions, especially in the Olympics.

Guys I root for: Leon Spinks, Thomas Hearns, Tyrell Biggs (outside the ring), Mark Breland, Larry Holmes, Rocky Lockridge, Aaron Pryor, and heaven knows why, Hector Camacho.

Best saloons where the boxing clan meets: Flame in Vegas, Irish Pub in Atlantic City, Galleria at Caesars Palace, Good Ole Days across from Madison Square Garden, Glory Hole (not what it sounds) in Reno, of course, the Lions Head in Greenwich Village, which is where Jose Torres learned to write. (He still has trouble buying a round.)

Best women judges: Carol Polis, Carol Castellano, Eva Shain.

Favorite places to cover fights: Paris, Tahiti, Madison Square Garden.

All right, in case you missed them, some serious stuff:

Fighters of the '80s: Mike Tyson, Ray Leonard, Marvin Hagler, Aaron Pryor, Larry Holmes, Thomas Hearns, Julio Cesar Chavez, Roberto Duran, Michael Spinks, Jeff Fenech, Jeff Chandler, Eusebio Pedroza, Salvador Sanchez, Wilfredo Gomez, Hector Camacho, Alexis Arguello, Evander Holyfield, Jung Koo Chang, Orlando Canizalez, Lupe Pintor.

Fights of the '80s (for either artistry, historic significance, or excitement, winner listed first): Leonard-Hearns I, Hagler-Hearns, Pryor-Arguello I, Duran-Leonard I, Gomez-Pintor, Duran-Barkley, Tyson-Spinks, Leonard-Hagler, Leonard-Hearns II, Leonard-Duran II.

Punches somebody didn't see: Barkley vs. Hearns, Snipes vs. Holmes, Tyson vs. Berbick, Tyson vs. Williams, Arguello vs. Rooney, Nunn vs. Kalambay.

Fights I want to see: Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor, Azumah Nelson-Pernell Whitaker, Michael Nunn-Sugar Ray Leonard, Jeff Fenech-Whitaker, Orlando Canizales-Raul Perez, Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield (I guess), Tyson vs. Someone Who Can Test Him, Charles Williams-Virgil Hill, Leonard-Hearns III, Nunn-Hearns, Duke Durden-Richie Giachetti.

All right, that's enough serious stuff.

Promoters who work for a living promoting someone other than themselves: Bob Arum, Dan Duva, Bobby Goodman.

Promoters whose egos are bigger than the product they're trying to peddle: Don King, George Foreman, Hector Camacho.

Promoters I wouldn't mind if my bride went to work for: None of the above.

People who, at one time or another, didn't talk to me: Gerry Cooney, Hector Camacho, Don King, Duke Durden, Al Braverman, Robin Givens, Ruth Roper.

People who, sad to say, now talk to me: Gerry Cooney, Hector Camacho.

Things I have to do: Transcribe these lists to toilet paper. □

Michael Katz is a boxing writer and columnist for the New York Daily News.

RYAN

OUT LOUD

NEW RULES FOR AN OLD GAME

By Jeff Ryan

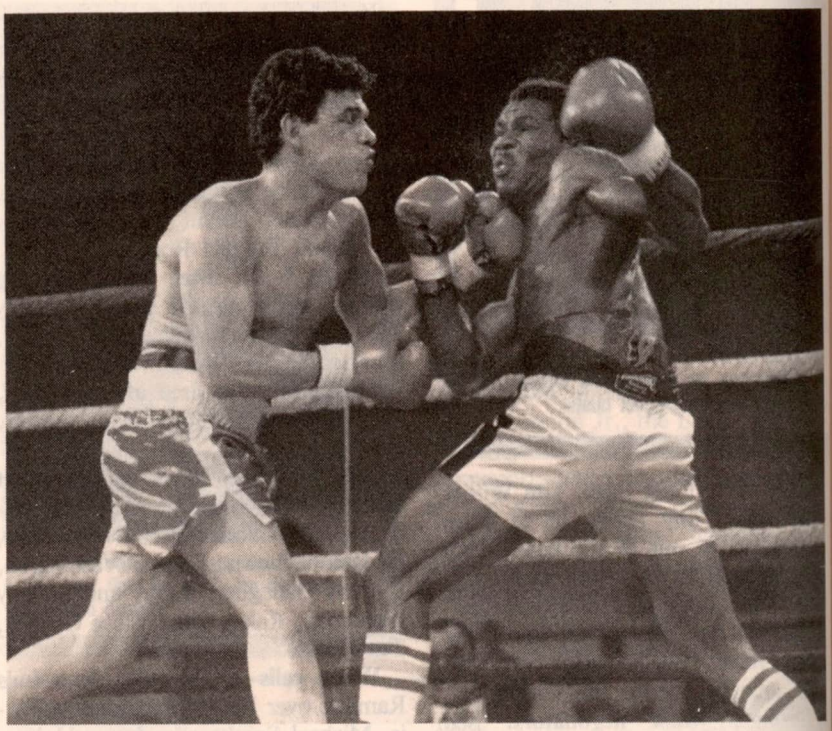
NO PRO SPORT has been so badly in need of dramatic rules changes, yet has ignored its plight so completely, as boxing. The NFL adopted the use of instant replay. The NBA instituted the three-point field goal. The NHL decided to redesign its offensive zones to create more goal scoring. And the fight game? It has forced cornermen to wear rubber gloves so that they don't—and how likely is this?—contract AIDS from the fighters. If there is one thing boxing lacks more than talented cruiserweights, it's progressive thinkers.

Of course, a strong argument can be made that encouraging an overhaul of the boxing rulebook is courting disaster. On one of those rare instances in recent years when the sweet science *has* made a drastic rules change, it sliced three rounds from world title fights on the basis of some unproven medical theories. Urge the sport to send the rulebook to the guys at rewrite, and we just might see two-minute rounds, a two-knockdown rule, and fights judged by ringside computers.

"IBM scores the fight 120-110, Apple sees the bout at 119-109, and Tandy has it 116-111, all for the winner—Sugar Ray Leonard!"

The truth, however, is that boxing doesn't need major rule revisions, but merely a few specific ones. It's time to replace those that are obsolete, rules that have been mistaken for priceless antiques, but are simply junk getting in the way. And it's time to institute some new rules that bring boxing out of the Dark Ages and into the 1990s.

The pessimists will point out that uniformity is impossible because the WBA, WBC, IBF, and the commissions of various states and countries have different sets of regulations. That is true—to an extent. When it comes to the most important rules, however, the world organizations and major commissions are mostly in agreement (10-point-must scoring, 12-round title fights, etc.). Changes, therefore, *can* be implemented on a wide scale.



Former middleweight contender Mustafa Hamsho, shaky in his comeback bout against Wesley Reid, benefited from a first-round standing eight-count. He rebounded to stop Reid in the fifth round.

And if the hierarchy of the WBA, WBC, IBF, and the various commissions are really committed to improving the sport, they'll make the following moves, where applicable:

1) Abolish the 10-point-must system: Boxing's most commonly used scoring system is a 10-point-must in name alone. In practice, it is actually a *three*-point-must system.

Fighters who win rounds by huge margins, but don't score knockdowns are almost always awarded 10-9 verdicts, as are fighters who eke out a round on the basis of an extra jab or two. Scoring a knockdown will usually earn a fighter a 10-8 round. Two knockdowns should translate to 10-7, but some judges are reluctant to ever give the loser of a round less than eight points. To earn a 10-6 or 10-5, a fighter would probably have to not just beat his foe silly, but also attack

the guy's family at ringside.

What's the solution? It's not to encourage judges to use the 10-point-must system more liberally, as New York state has begun doing. After years of operating with one mindset in regard to the 10-point-must, judges can't be expected to change their scoring philosophies in any uniform fashion.

Take, for example, round 12 of Leonard-Hearns II, a round with no knockdowns, but with one of the fighters—in this case, Leonard—dominating. Suppose the judges had been encouraged to be more liberal with their scoring. A stubborn traditionalist might have nonetheless scored the round only 10-9 for Leonard. Another judge might have seen it as a clear 10-8 for Sugar. And a third judge, anxious to interpret the 10-point-must in a new way, might rule it 10-5. Do we want to see major fights subjected to this wackiness?

The solution is for the ruling bodies and athletic commissions to adopt the rounds system, with a *supplemental* points system referred to only in the case of draws. Under the supplemental system, judges would be *required* to award the winner of a round a two-point margin if he scored a knockdown, a three-point margin for two knockdowns, etc.

The rounds system, like the 10-point-must, has received its share of criticism through the years. But it is the lesser of two evils, and at least is true to its name.

2) Eliminate the standing eight-count: If Jose Canseco steps up to the plate against the Kansas City Royals in the bottom of the ninth inning, with the score tied 2-2, and launches a rocket over the left field wall, he doesn't have to get back in the batter's box and homer *again* in order for the winning run to count. But the standing eight-count often forces a fighter to have to kayo his opponent *twice* in order to win.

Case in point: In November, comebacking Mustafa Hamsho was hurt by Wesley Reid in the opening round of a bout in Callicoon, New York. When a helpless Hamsho staggered to the ropes and was being pummeled, referee Joe Santarpia intervened and issued a standing eight-count. Given valuable time to recover, Hamsho rebounded and halted Reid in round five.

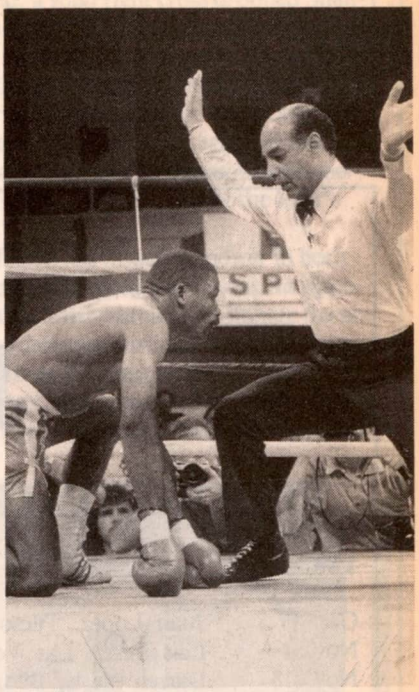
In essence, Reid kayoed Hamsho in the first round, but because of the standing eight, was denied his victory and was forced to have to try and win all over again. Worse yet, when *Reid* was being pounded along the ropes in the fifth, the fight was stopped—for good. Why was a woozy Hamsho given a standing eight, but not a woozy Reid? Because it's a judgment call. A judgment call that is often grossly unfair to one of the fighters.

Not all commissions use standing eights, but the ones that do are begging for controversy. The standing eight-count is an *amateur* rule. If a fighter is hurt badly enough for a referee to step in, then the contest should be stopped and a TKO awarded to the fighter inflicting the punishment. If pro boxing intends to start borrowing from the amateurs, it might as well make the wearing of headgear mandatory and give a knockdown and a jab equal value in the scoring.

3) Stop penalizing the victims of accidental butts: The specific guidelines of the WBA, WBC, IBF, and various commissions differ, but generally, if a fighter is cut by an accidental butt and is unable to continue, this rule applies: If *less* than half the scheduled rounds have been completed, the fight is declared a draw; if *more* than half the rounds have been completed, the cards are tallied and the fighter leading wins via a technical decision.

It is a flawed rule. Let's say that seven rounds of a 12-rounder have been completed. A cut fighter who is trailing by one point on two cards and winning on the third would be declared a loser, just the same as a cut fighter who was trailing by seven points. That doesn't seem fair. Why should slow starters and fighters who are pacing themselves in the hope of stepping up the tempo late in the bout be penalized just because they happened to be cut by a butt?

I'd like to see the current butt rule stand for eight, six, and four-round bouts, but new rules adopted for 10- and 12-rounders. In the longer (and thus more important) fights, the man who *isn't* cut can only win if he is ahead by at least *three* points on one of the cards at the time of the stoppage. If he isn't, the decision is a draw. Julio Cesar Chavez, who led Jose Luis Ramirez by seven points on one card in their 1988 meeting, would still have won under the new guidelines. But the possibility of a champion trailing by a whisker and losing his title after being butted would be eliminated.



Marlon Starling needed an instant replay rule at the end of his title fight against Tomas Molinares.

4) Introduce the instant replay: Sure, at times, it's been as much of a problem as a problem-solver in the NFL, but that is unlikely to be the case in boxing. Because of the nature of the two sports, there are far fewer controversial moments in the average fight than in the average football game, and thus, far less situations that the replay official would have to review.

The instant replay is vital for situations like the Frankie Duarte-Albert Davila bout in 1987, when Davila was cut by a butt, but lost by TKO because referee Lou Filippo never saw the fighters' heads collide. Replay would have also cleared up the confusion surrounding 1988's Tomas Molinares-Marlon Starling debacle, when WBA welterweight king Starling was kayoed with a punch fired after the bell.

On that night, officials ran haphazardly around ringside trying to catch glimpses of HBO's monitors. Had a replay official been assigned to watch a special screen, Molinares' "victory" might have been nullified by the WBA before the fighters left the ring.

Would use of instant replay remove some of the human element from the sport? Of course it would. But so what? Two fighters' futures shouldn't hinge on the possibility of a referee's mistake.

To err is human. But just try telling that to Marlon Starling. □

NEW

FACES

JEMAL HINTON

PROFESSIONAL RECORD

1988

Oct. 17	Juan Lopez, Tucson, AZ	KO 2
Nov. 4	Luis Perez, Las Vegas	KO 3
Nov. 18	Darren Neals, Biloxi, MS	KO 3
Dec. 8	Derrick Watson, Detroit	KO 1

1989

Feb. 4	Darren McGrew, Biloxi	KO 2
Feb. 7	Ruben Nevarez, Atlantic City	W 6
June 25	Scott DePew, Atlantic City	KO 2
Aug. 11	Al Joseph, Biloxi	KO 1
Aug. 26	Sonny Long, Ann Arbor, MI	W 8
Nov. 16	Robert Shannon, Atlantic City	KO 11

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	10	10	0	0	8

By Robert Cassidy

IF YOU EVER happen to be in District Heights, Maryland, and you're trying to find a certain 20-year-old named Jemal Hinton, don't search in all the usual locales. Because he won't be there.

You won't find him at the video arcade, pumping quarters into a flashing pinball machine. He won't be wandering around the mall or playing a pick-up game of basketball at the park. And he certainly won't be found on any streetcorners. Unless, of course, he's helping someone cross the street.

So where will you find Jemal Hinton? Well, if he's not training at the Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Center, he's probably home, in his room, conquering a 300-piece jigsaw puzzle. And if he's not there, check the living room. That's where he and his father spend time watching fight films.

Unlike many young athletes who have tasted success, Hinton is polite and respectful. His smile is broad and engaging. He speaks and acts with all the innocence and shyness of a young man who has just turned 20.

But when Hinton boxes, he is neither innocent nor shy. He fights with an assurance and aggression that belies his youth and 10-fight professional record. When he steps out of his hometown version of *Mayberry, RFD,* and into the ring, Hinton is explosive, quick, and confident.

In a pro career that has spanned only 14 months, Hinton owns a 10-0 (8) record and the WBC Continental Americas super bantamweight title.

"He's got all the basics," said his manager, Emanuel Steward. "All he needs is to stay busy and fight quality fighters. Then a natural development will take place. We want to get him fights he can grow off of."

Hinton's ring stature is already growing. His recent 11th-round TKO over Robert Shannon should land him a top-10 ranking in the WBC's 122-pound division. But that shouldn't be surprising. Hinton's rise seems to be predestined. Consider that he was born in the same Brooklyn hospital as Kronk stablemate Michael Moorer, and that his father, Junious Hinton, was a sparring partner for former welterweight and middleweight champion Emile Griffith. Still, Hinton made up his own mind to put on boxing gloves.

"My father thought I was joking when I said I wanted to box," he said.

Hinton started jabbing and hooking at age 10, but it appeared that boxing would be nothing more than a childhood phase. In his first year, Hinton quit five times. But his father saw something special, and each time coaxed him back to the gym. Finally, Hinton stayed, and he enjoyed a long, dignified amateur career, with a nine-year record of 98-14. The climax was the 119-pound finals of the 1988 Olympic Trials. But a nagging injury to his left shoulder hindered his performance, and the result was a loss to eventual gold medalist Kennedy McKinney, whom Hinton had beaten two months earlier.

"That's when I realized I had potential to be good at what I was doing," said Hinton. "I wasn't disappointed. I knew the reason was because of my shoulder. I asked to have the fight postponed. But my father said, 'If you don't fight now, you'll never know what you have.' I said, 'shucks, what the heck.'

"In the first round the pain recurred. I told my pops that

my arm was hurting and he just said, 'You have to deal with it.' In the second it was hurting more. McKinney realized it and started to put more pressure on me. I lost a 4-1 decision. I was scheduled to go to the box-offs, but my father and I decided it wasn't worth risking permanent damage. So we pulled out."

Even without the benefit of an Olympic medal, Hinton appears to have a golden future. He has become the first fighter from the class of '88, including all the winners at Seoul, to win a professional title. And he'll most likely follow silver medalist Michael Carbajal (ranked second in the junior flyweight division by the IBF) into the top-10 ratings.

"I've always said he would be the first small man to command $1-million purses," said Steward. "There are two reasons. The first reason is that he's American. The second is because he's got that charisma all the writers like. He has personality and a style of fighting that is exciting to watch. He does a lot of cute things like a veteran."

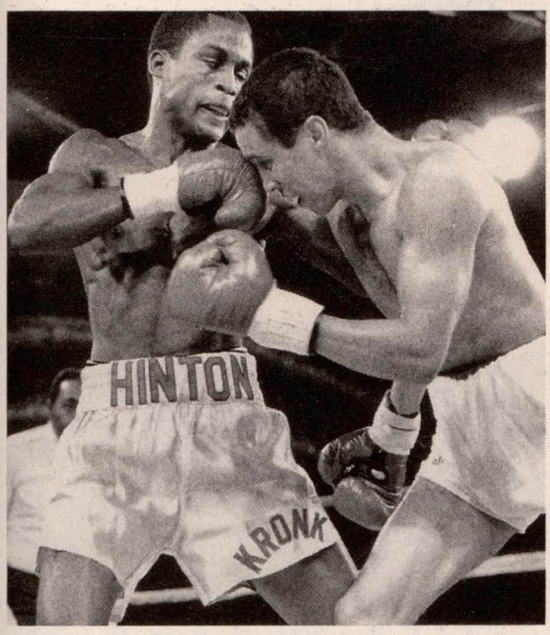
Those cute things, no doubt, are a result of daily two-hour training sessions with his father, who works closely with Steward in guiding the fighter's career.

"I never really make a big decision concerning my life without consulting my mother and father first," said Hinton. "That's the way I want it. That's the way it'll always be—one big family team."

Steward, whom Hinton calls his godfather, has complete confidence in the family system, which has failed so many fighters.

"Their whole world is boxing," he said. "When I get him a fight, his daddy says, 'Tell me how many rounds you want him prepared for,' and he gets him ready."

The fight against Shannon, a two-time Olympian who stopped perennial contender Irving Mitchell in 1988, was scheduled for 12 rounds. But Hinton, who had boxed eight rounds only once, showed no apparent stamina problems. In fact, he effortlessly outclassed the more-experienced Shannon.

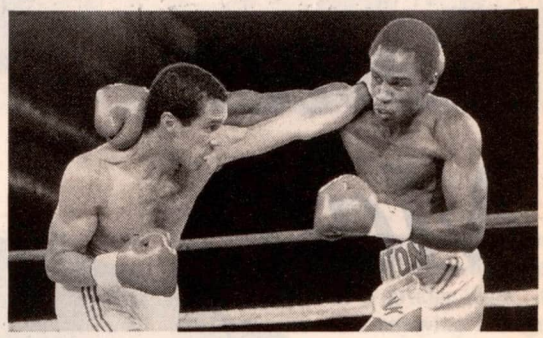


In his first significant test as a pro, Jemal Hinton floored and frustrated former two-time Olympian Robert Shannon en route to an 11th-round TKO victory in Atlantic City.

In the opening round, a solid right cross dropped Shannon. But Shannon rose quickly, and applied pressure on the young Kronk fighter. Hinton, though, neatly outmanuevered him, scoring with combinations to the body and head. In the fourth, a hard right uppercut to the body caught Shannon off-balance and sent him down again. From that point on, Hinton steadily wore down Shannon, with the fight ending in the 11th because of a cut over the loser's right eye.

In only 10 fights, Hinton has displayed power in both hands and the necessary hand speed to outwork his opponents. And when fighting a foe who likes to initiate the action, he's displayed the defensive instincts to escape danger and the ability to effectively counterpunch.

As with most prospects, there comes the concern of moving Hinton along too fast. But the youngster hardly seems fazed.



Shannon and Hinton cross swords. The polished Hinton is about six fights away from a world title shot.

"I don't feel I'm moving too fast," he said. "I'm young, and at the present moment I'm winning. I want to accomplish as much as possible before age starts to set in."

It'll be years before Hinton has to worry about faded reflexes. A world title fight, in fact, seems to be in his near future. Steward feels that after six more fights, Hinton will be ready to challenge any of the three current 122-pound titlists, Daniel Zaragoza (WBC), Jesus Salud (WBA), and Fabrice Benichou (IBF).

"Win or lose, I would love the opportunity," said Hinton. "I don't even look to see who the champions are. But whoever he is, I'll be prepared to do my best when I fight him."

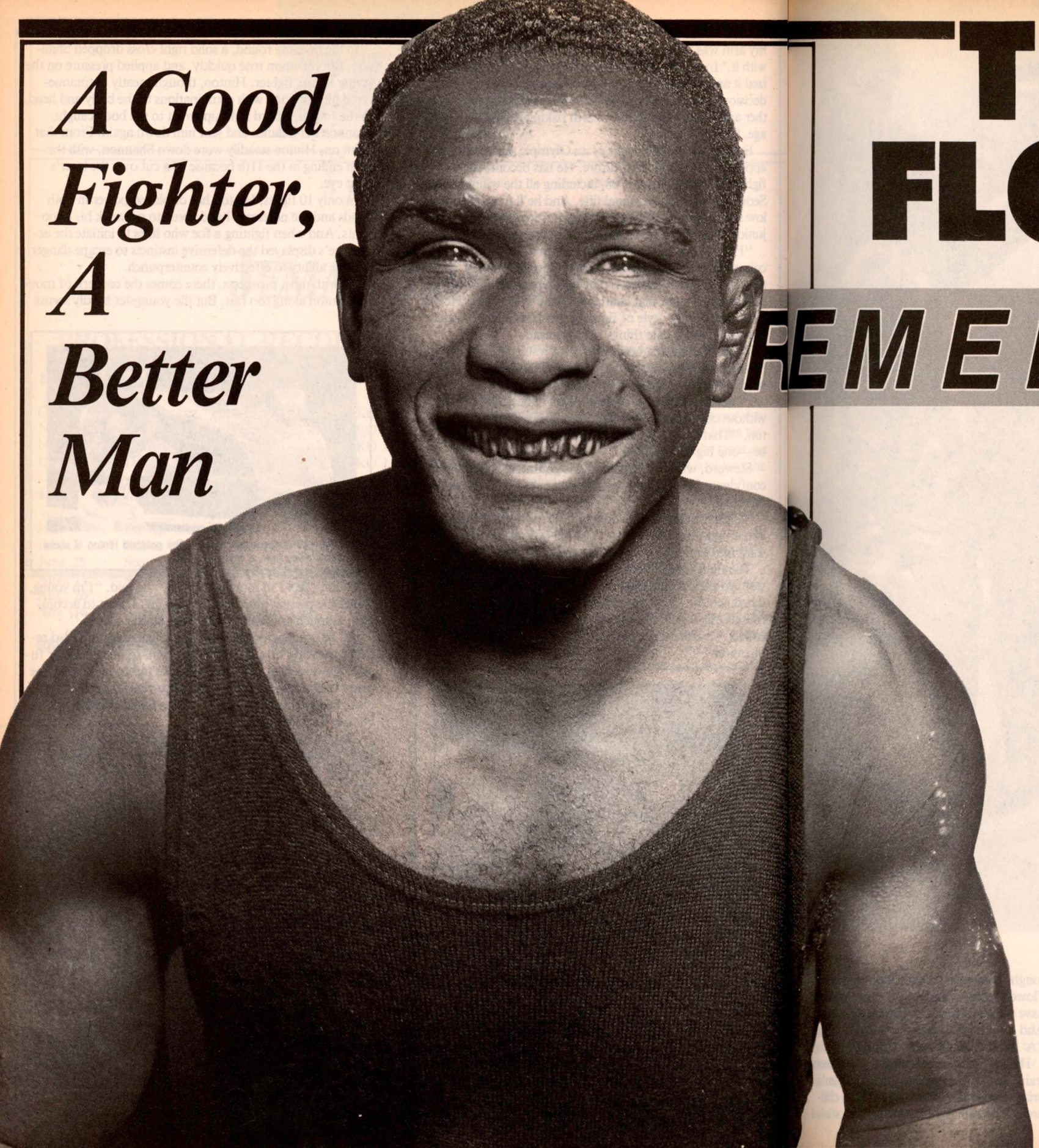
Another future opponent may be McKinney, who is 5-0-1 as a pro. But a drug problem has sidelined the Texan's career. And rather than take advantage of a weakened Olympian, Hinton would like to see his adversary overcome his addiction.

"He has a lot problems of his own," Hinton said. "Thinking about me would be an added problem on his mind. It would be too much of a burden."

In a sport where trading insults is as common as trading punches, Hinton straddles the border of compassion and competitiveness, knowing precisely when to cross the line. His tranquil demeanor is a stark contrast to the level of violence that boxing can demand. But compassion, and most other emotions, are left on the other side of the ropes.

"When I'm in the ring, there is the possibility my opponent will have to take unnecessary punishment," Hinton explained. "But I'm risking that as well. I know there has to be a winner and there has to be a loser. And I prefer to win." □

A Good Fighter, A Better Man



TIGER FLOWERS

REMEMBERED

ON AUGUST 19, 1926, one of the roughest, toughest brawls ever fought for a world boxing championship took place at Madison Square Garden. There were, in fact, enough aspects to this fight—and the fighters—to make this a classic. But then Tiger Flowers, defending the middleweight title, was a classic human being.

In a different way, the challenger for the crown was also a classic. His name was Harry Greb. Flowers, Greb, Mickey Walker, Jack Dempsey, and Benny Leonard are legends whose names are as well-known to the modern fans as Tyson, Chavez, Leonard, and Hearns. These ring immortals helped make the '20s the Golden Age of boxing.

Theodore "Tiger" Flowers was part of that Golden Age. He was a credit to his era, and to all mankind.

You wouldn't have thought so had you seen him fight Greb on that muggy August night back in '26. Greb, an all-time master of the unmanly art of kicking, gouging, kneeing, butting, and eye-rubbing, was in fine form as he tried to win back—by means fair or foul—the title that Flowers had clawed away from him six months before. As for Flowers, he met his archrival more than halfway. Most orthodox wrestling holds were used during the fight; more than once both fighters flopped to the canvas without the benefit of a punch, and numerous complaints of dirty tactics were registered by both. Referee Jim Crowley ignored most of these, since Flowers' low blows were no more damaging than Greb's eye-thumbing. Moreover, it was a grudge fight, and the spectators were enjoying it hugely.

Midway through the fight, Greb, in the act of gouging Flowers' eye from its socket, was thunderstruck to hear the Tiger say plaintively, "Mister Greb, put my eye out if you want, but please don't take the name of the Lord in vain."

Later, Greb said, "I thought that he was kidding, but damned if he didn't mean it." Shaking his head, the tough, hell-raising, Pittsburgh pit-fighter added admiringly, "That Flowers—he's not only a good fighter, he's a good man."

Which about sums up the story of Tiger Flowers. To find the beginning of the story, you have to go back to 1895, when Theodore Flowers was born into a Georgia family of poor but devout farmers. For 20 years there was little to hint that the wiry boy with the sad face was destined to become the first black fighter to win the world middleweight title.

As Gene Tunney was to say in his famous eulogy of the Tiger, "I am proud to have called Tiger Flowers my friend . . . as a man he showed to the world that he could carry and keep his religion in the pursuit of the profession of boxing. He was deeply religious, but he did not parade it . . . he was an inspiration not only to the youth of his race, but to all boys and young men—to live cleanly, speak softly, trust in

Middleweight king Flowers squares off with light heavyweight Eddie Huffman before their 10-rounder in Los Angeles in 1926. Flowers won on points.

God, and fight hard and fair."

These words would have stood up even if Flowers had never entered the ring and become the "Tiger." But it seems that Flowers was a natural. He gravitated toward boxing as though drawn by a magnet. The exact circumstances are history. During the war, a young Flowers enlisted and worked as a laborer in the shipyards of Philadelphia while steeping himself in the Bible. One day he walked into the gym of the old fighter, Philadelphia Jack O'Brien, and asked if he could put on the gloves with some of the boys. Until that moment, the youngster had never fought in his life.

O'Brien liked his looks. "You ever fought before?" he asked. It seemed to Flowers that a negative answer would have denied him the chance to spar. And he was probably right. So he said, "A little. I can handle myself."

He told the simple truth. With no training whatsoever, he made O'Brien's prize pupils look like awkward children. The old fighter told him to stick to the ring, that he had the stamp of a true champ. Never was a prophecy more accurate. Within the next two years, Tiger Flowers engaged in 13 prizefights, winning all 13, six by knockout. Those six fights, oddly enough, made Flowers unhappy.

"I hate to knock a man out," he later told a writer. "What if he shouldn't come to again? What then?" Sometimes, though, he'd try to deliver a kayo to save an opponent from an extended beating. As a result of this humanitarian attitude, Tiger was not reputed to be a powerful puncher. Nevertheless, he had more kayos than decisions to his credit, and there's no doubt that he showed mercy to many.

But not to Harry Greb. And certainly not to the powerpunching Canadian, Jack Delaney. Of the eight knockouts suffered by the great Tiger, Delaney administered two of them. After their second bout, the gallant Delaney walked into the loser's dressing room, extending his hand in friendship. "Don't get up, Tiger," he smiled, "I just thought I'd drop in and say hello."

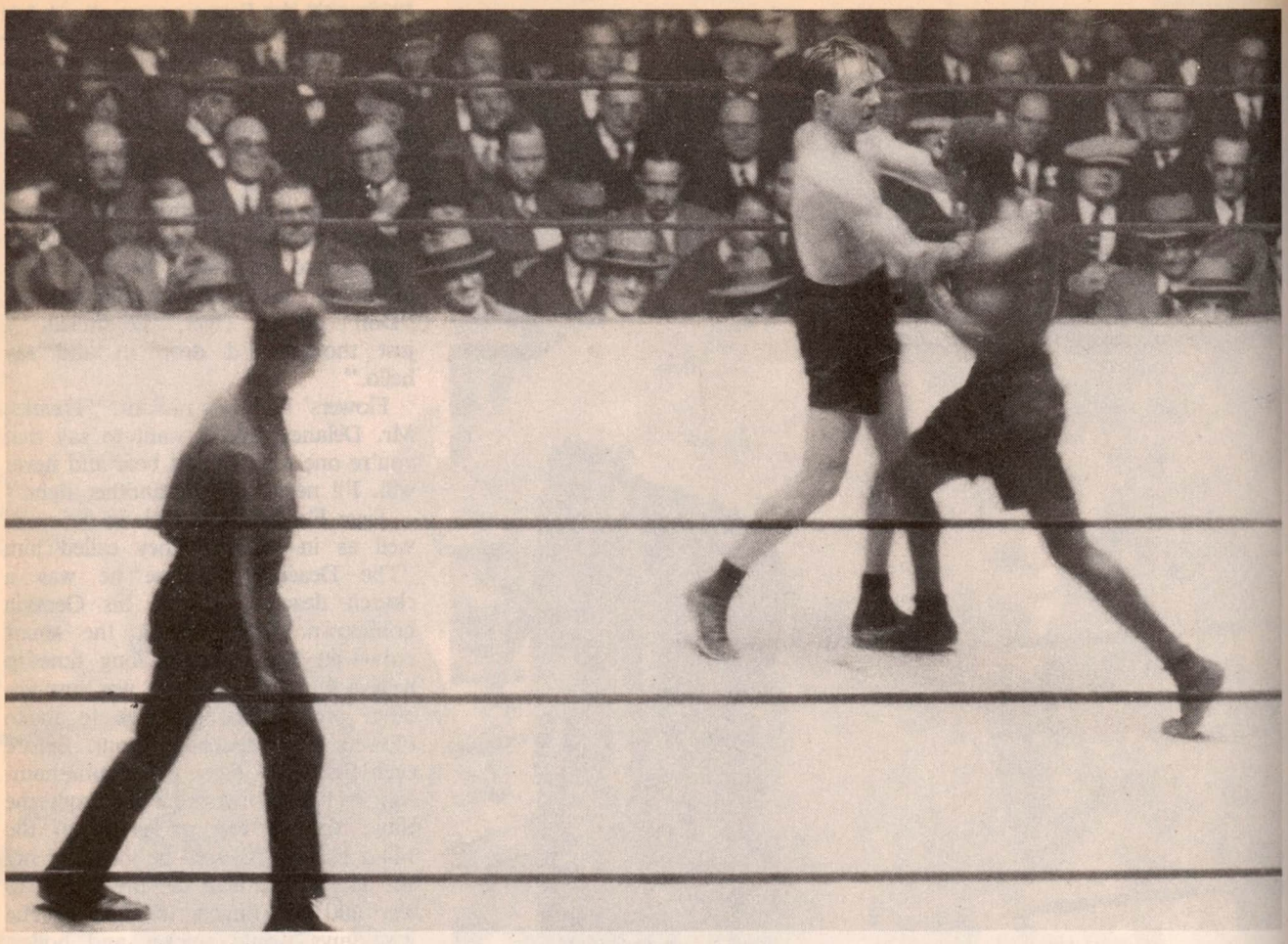
Flowers' face was radiant. "Thanks, Mr. Delaney, and I want to say that you're one man I can't beat and never will. I'll never ask for another fight."

Tiger Flowers was noble in defeat as well as in victory. They called him "The Deacon" because he was a church deacon back in his Georgia hometown. But it took the smart crowd in New York a long time to believe it. They figured it was just another promotional gimmick to make Flowers a newspaper stickout. Before each fight, the Tiger would unashamedly recite his favorite verse from the Bible, the opening paragraph of the 144th Psalm ("Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war and my fingers to fight"). The wise guys would snicker and holler, "Holy Joe!"

Not until the second loss to Delaney, when Flowers' dressing room speech was flashed across the land, did ring followers realize that something new and refreshing had been added to boxing. In the field of boxing, sincerity is a rare thing. Tiger Flowers had so much of it that surprised onlookers thought him a faker. "Is he the real thing?" writers and promoters asked themselves and each other. The promoters didn't care—it was all good publicity. The writers did—they were tired of phonies. They did some investigating. Yes, indeed, the Tiger was tigerish only in the ring. Outside, he was gentle and sincere man of God.

Only one example of Tiger Flowers' character is necessary to prove that here was a very unusual man. His bout with Mike McTigue took place on December 23, 1925, the third boxing card held in the newly built Madison Square Garden. In the 65 years and hundreds of fight cards since, that fight stands out with one distinction: It produced arguably the worst decision in Garden history.

This was not a championship fight. McTigue had been shorn of his light heavyweight crown earlier in the year,



In one of the worst decisions in New York boxing history, Flowers loses on points over 10 rounds to Mike McTigue at Madison Square Garden in December 1925. Upon the announcement of the verdict, a minor riot erupted. The only man who didn't dispute the decision was Tiger Flowers.

and the Tiger had yet to fight middleweight king Greb. It was generally regarded, however, that the winner of this fight would get a shot at Greb. It was a vital fight for both men.

In the 21 months that had passed since Flowers had invaded New York, he won the hardened hearts of just about everyone he met, including those he whipped in the ring. He overcame a two-fold handicap—he was both a black and a southpaw—to become a tremendous attraction all over the nation. In all, he fought 54 bouts in less than two years, and the only losses were the two bouts with Delaney.

Flowers was 30 when he met McTigue and, as usual, in his best shape. His heavier opponent was not. McTigue had apparently underestimated Flowers, although there was no reason why he should have done so. Perhaps it was the reckless abandon of the Irishman that had made him overconfident. Whatever the reason, he was in no condition to fight a superb specimen like the Tiger.

An unusual aspect of the fight—and it was only one of many—was the fact that, due to numerous complaints about the quality of officiating in previous Garden bouts, something special was arranged for the big Christmas show. A famous New York businessman, Bernard Gimble, and a banker were nominated as judges, along with ace referee Ed Purdy. What brought about this kind of muddled thinking on the part of promoter Tex Rickard and his cohorts is a never-to-be-answered question.

(Another interesting aside to the fight was that in one of the preliminaries, a promising young fighter out of New Orleans named Tony Canzoneri took his first steps toward immortality by blasting out Danny Terris in four rounds.)

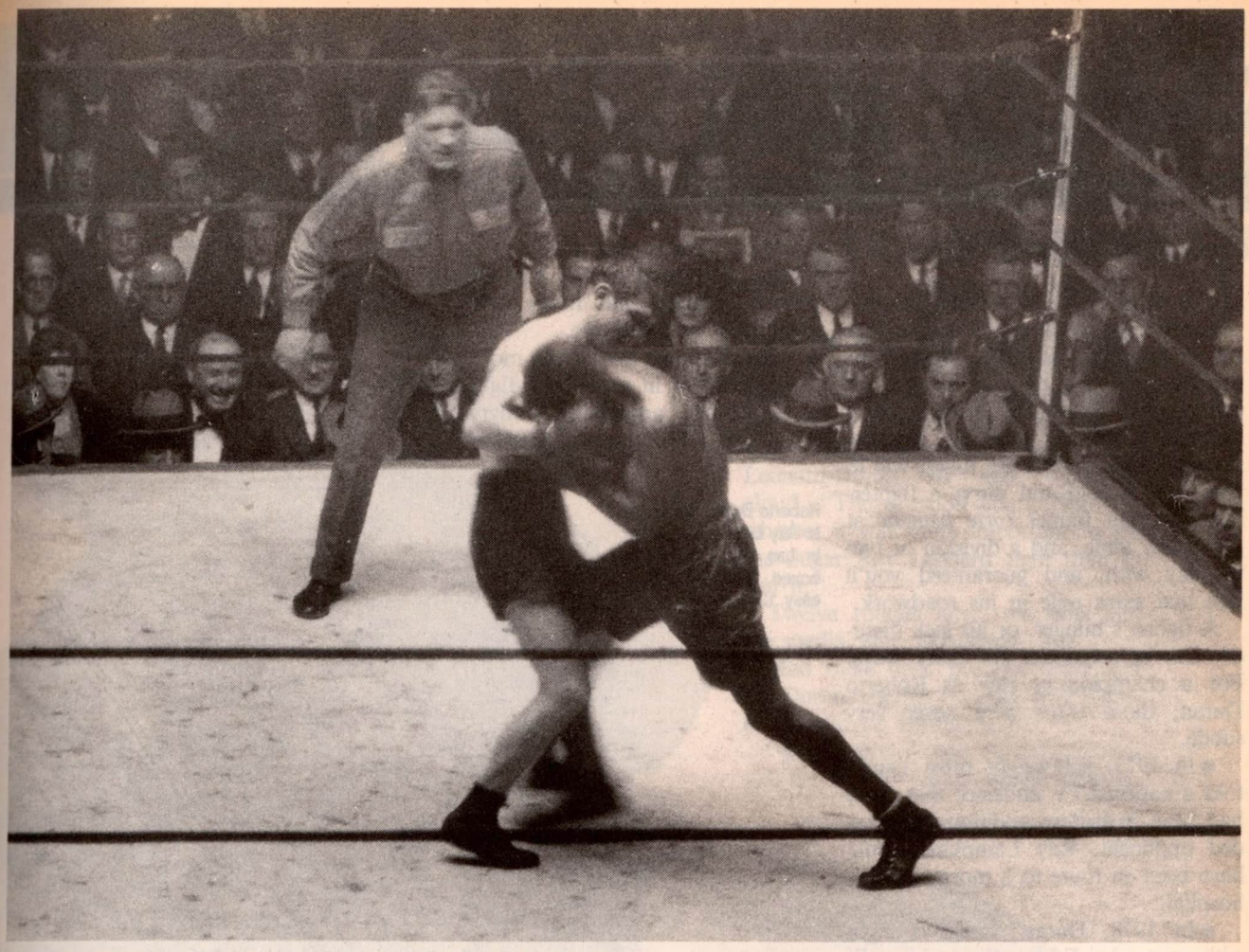
The main event was a good fight all the way, but it was also all Flowers. Ringsiders gave most of the 10 rounds to the Tiger. As the final bell sounded, there was no doubt as to who the winner was.

Well, no doubt Mr. Gimbel was a marvelous merchandiser. And his fellow official was likely a very capable banker. But they should have stuck to their respective professions instead of trying to decide boxing matches. The decision came, and it was in favor of McTigue.

The verdict caused a minor riot. Many minutes were needed to quiet the crowd, and it's a wonder that Gimbel and the banker escaped assassination. (In those days, the referee did not cast his ballot unless the judges disagreed.)

The ridiculous verdict was so obvious to all that, to Rickard's credit, he announced the next day that Flowers, and not McTigue, would meet the champ. And that's how Flowers-Greb came to be. The Tiger met Greb two months after "losing" to McTigue, beat him in a close fight, and solidified his position by repeating the victory later that same year.

But his conquests of Greb were not as revealing as his loss to McTigue. Because, as the fantastic verdict was announced to a chorus of boos and catcalls, there was only one man in all the Garden who didn't protest. That was Tiger Flowers. Crossing the ring, he grabbed the astonished McTigue by the hand and smiled while warmly



Flowers captures the world middleweight title via 15-round decision from the legendary Harry Greb at Madison Square Garden in February 1926. The referee is Ed "Gunboat" Smith. Flowers repeated the points win six months later, but then lost the crown to Mickey Walker in his next defense.

congratulating him.

In the dressing room, the boxing writers clustered around the Georgia Deacon, offering condolences and asking his opinion. Flowers offered no comment. But his faithful manager, Walk Miller, who handled him throughout his career, was openly disgusted. And he was saying so in unquotable terms when Tiger drew him aside, whispering seriously.

Miller then came forward again. "The deacon says it was God's will, and let it go at that," he said. He ended his remarks with a withering glare that expressed *his* feelings.

***

Someone once asked Flowers what his fellow churchmen thought of his boxing activities. Wasn't that sort of vocation getting away from the true Christian spirit?

"I am a professional pugilist," Flowers replied without hesitation, "because I believe God meant me to be just what I am. It's not wrong, the Bible tells me, for a man to fight for his livelihood, and it's right to pray for what you fight for."

It is unfortunate that such a man could not have continued to live a full life. Flowers surely would have added much more to the goodness of the world. But it was not to be. The last months of the deacon's life were not happy ones. The story of how Mickey Walker took his crown in December 1926 has been told many times, sometimes truthfully, sometimes not. One thing is sure: Although Walker turned out to be a great champion, he didn't really *earn* his title until some months had passed after the Flowers fight. The decision given to him by referee and sole judge Benny Yanger was not a fair one, but the gentle Tiger, of course, accepted the defeat graciously.

Flowers fought 18 more times, all in 1927, and was defeated for the final time on November 16 of that year. But it was no ordinary opponent who beat him. On that day he walked slowly but confidently into a New York hospital, ready for eye surgery. The operation, to remove lumps of scar tissue from above his eyes, was ordinarily simple and routine, with no record of fatalities. There was, however, an ironic twist. As Flowers was being wheeled into the operating room, his little black Bible in his hand, he asked his doctor, "Isn't this the same kind of thing that Harry Greb died from?"

The doctor nodded. "Yes, it is ," he said of the eye surgery that had left Greb dead on an Atlantic City operating room table 11 months earlier. (Greb fought the last five years of his extraordinary career without vision in his right eye. The surgery that ended his life was for removal of that eye.) "But that was one chance in a million. Anyway," he said with grim humor, "you're tougher than Harry was, you've proved that."

But death was tougher than both of them. The Tiger did not recover from his operation, dying at age 32 of what attending physician Dr. W.G. Fralick said was a condition of the lymph glands.

As Flowers surely would have said had he been given the chance, "It was God's will to have it this way." □

DID DURAN SAY NO MAS AGAIN?

By Steven Farhood

IN ANY AND all athletic competition, hunger is an intangible that can be as critical as speed, strength, or conditioning. But only in boxing can that hunger be applied literally. It is often the fighter with the emptiest stomach who exhibits the fullest will to win. Feed a cold and starve a fighter. But give that fighter *carte blanche* at the dinner table, and a division or two to play with, and guaranteed you'll lose that extra mile in his roadwork.

A fighter's hunger, or his lack thereof, can be expressed in many ways. For a champion as raw as Roberto Duran, those ways were never very subtle.

● In 1975, lightweight titlist Duran told a national-TV audience that if he had been in better condition, his kayoed opponent, Ray Lampkin, would have been en route to a morgue, not a hospital.

● In 1978, Duran started a fight with contender Edwin Viruet immediately after outpointing the lightweight's brother, Adolpho Viruet.

● In 1980, welterweight challenger Duran called Ray Leonard's wife a whore. And after the bell ending the 15th round of their battle in Montreal, he snarled and hit Leonard from behind, just for the hell of it.

But if absence indeed makes the heart grow fonder, Duran, once thought to possess the emotion of the devil, developed an affection for Leonard from 1980 to 1989. They hugged before their third fight and after their third fight, and during the fight, Duran ever so politely kept his hands to himself.

● After round three, Leonard intentionally bumped Duran en route to his corner. No response, not even an obligatory eyeballing.

● In round six, Leonard hit Duran as he held him. Duran looked to referee Richard Steele for help. *The referee?* Does a jungle guerrilla ask a Red Cross representative to tell the other side to play fair?

● In rounds 11 and 12, Leonard bled from four cuts that would require a total of 60 stitches. Duran, told by his handlers that he was behind on points, responded like a kitten, not a shark. The sound of the final bell, it seemed, pleased him more than the sight of a wounded foe.

After dropping one of the most one-sided decisions in recent title-fight history, Duran, apparently hungry no more, told HBO's Larry Merchant that he was "satisfied" with his performance. Where Leonard's appetite seems insatiable, Duran has become a round-bellied Buddha.

"I don't think Duran will be at the morning-after press conference," one of his aides said late on fight night. "He'll probably be drinking all night."

Whiskey to blunt his senses? Or champagne to celebrate his dollars?

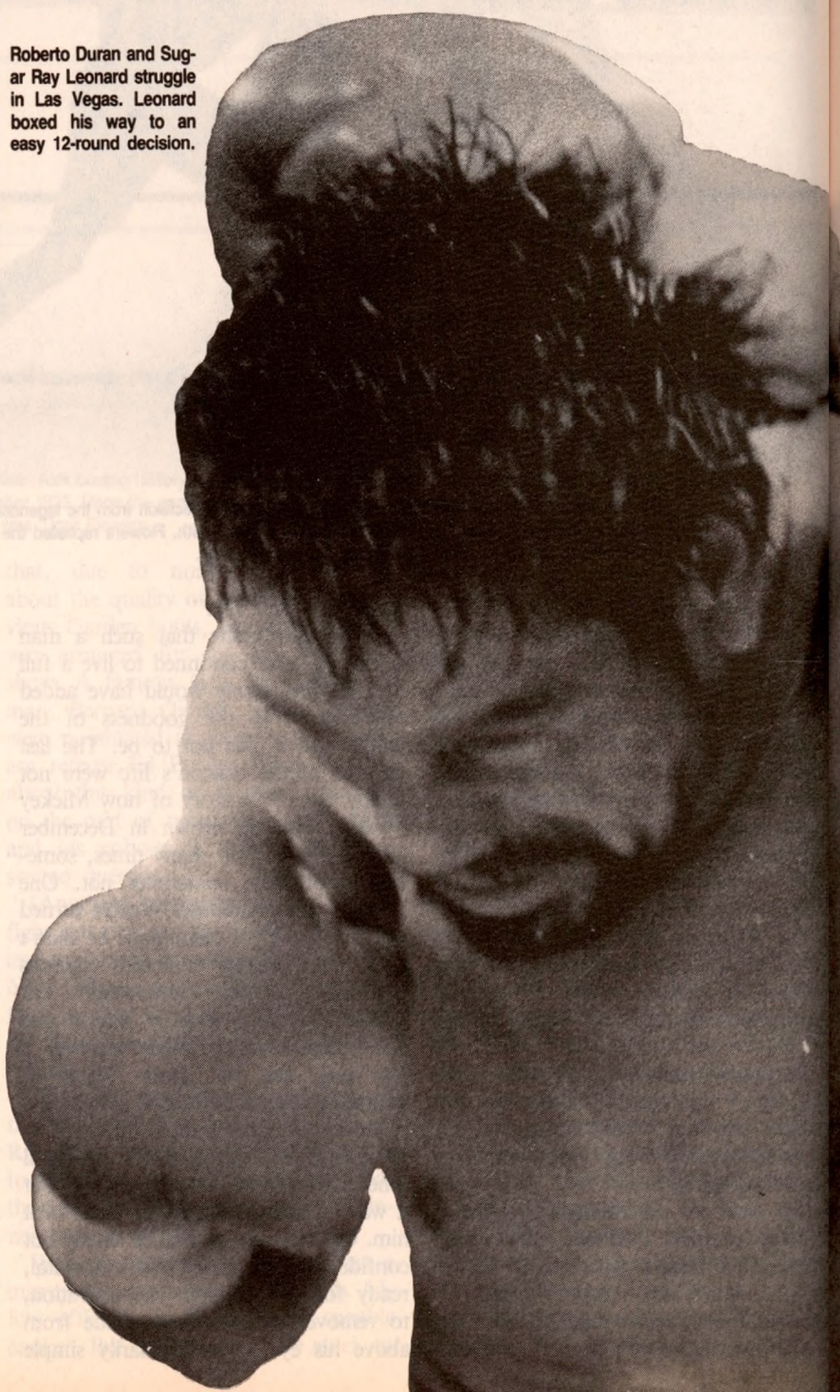
***

Former light heavyweight champion Jose Torres, an observer forever intrigued by the mental machinations of two paired fighters, stood ringside at The Mirage hotel an hour before Leonard-Duran III and wondered aloud, "The question about Duran is whether it was more important to *get* the Sugar Ray Leonard fight than to *win* it."

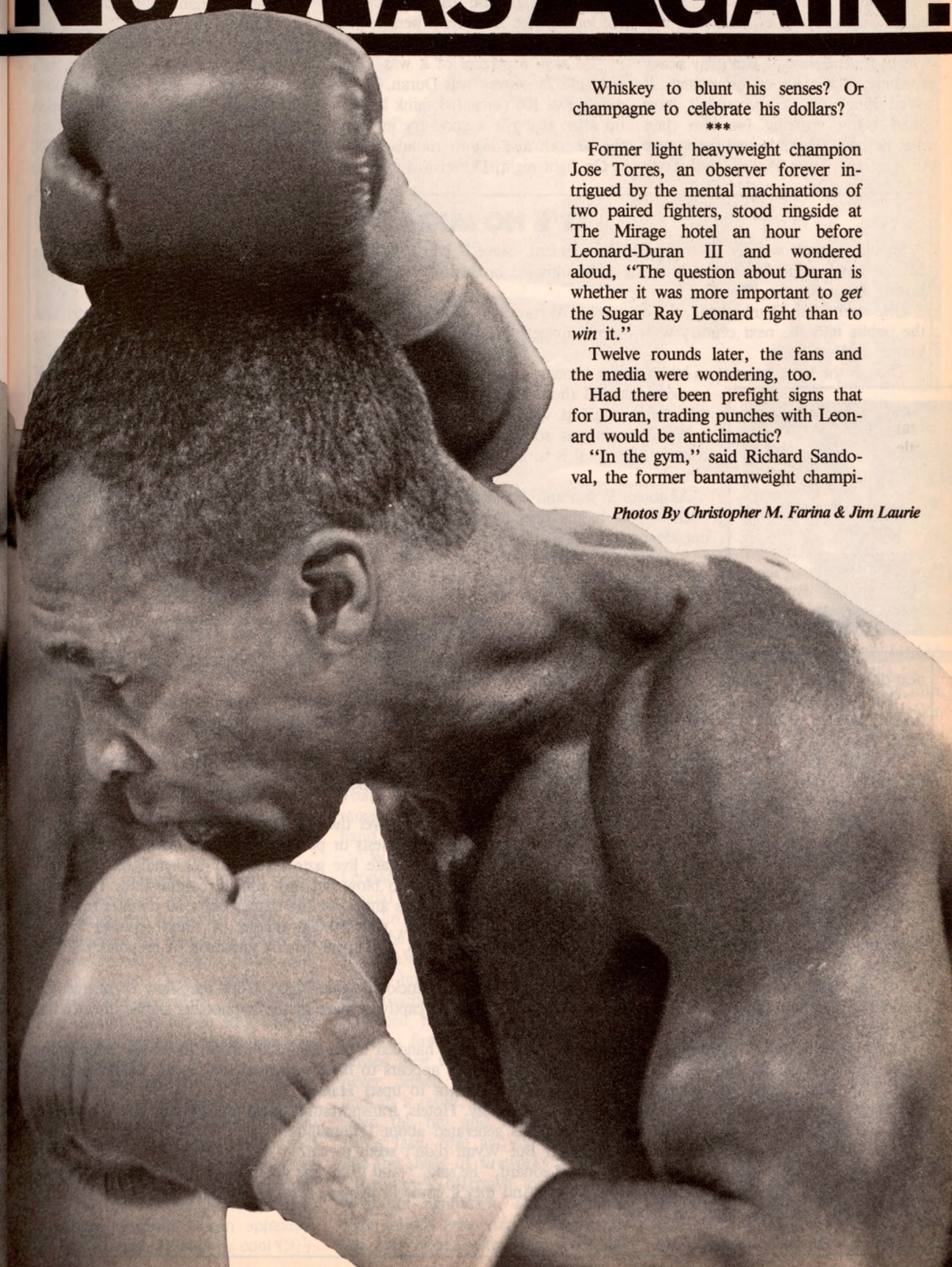
Twelve rounds later, the fans and the media were wondering, too.

Had there been prefight signs that for Duran, trading punches with Leonard would be anticlimactic?

"In the gym," said Richard Sandoval, the former bantamweight champi-



Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard struggle in Las Vegas. Leonard boxed his way to an easy 12-round decision.



Photos By Christopher M. Farina & Jim Laurie

on who worked Duran's Las Vegas camp as a publicist and translator for promoter Bob Arum, "you could see that all he wanted to do from the very beginning of his training sessions was reduce weight. He knew he had a belly, and he wanted to get rid of it.

"His sparring was, I can't say heavy punching, but a lot of movement. It served him well. You couldn't have found better sparring for him than what he had. (Duran's sparmates were Ali Sanchez, Tony Powell, and Tony Montero.) Those guys ran and hot-dogged and boloed. Duran would cut off the ring and bob and weave and come up with shots that were connecting. In the fight, he just looked stale. He looked like a different person than in the workouts.

"I'd say 75 percent of it was Leonard, and 25 percent was Duran. Duran didn't give 100 percent. I think he gave up after giving it a good try in about the seventh and eighth rounds."

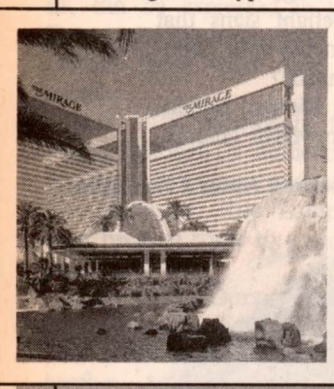
On fight night, Duran was calm and controlled. At 6:45 p.m., he arrived at his dressing room trailer in a red car driven by his wife, Felicidad. As sleepy-eyed trainer Nestor Quinones, the only remnant from Duran's days as a lightweight, stripped him and then applied oil to his fat-free body, Duran welcomed a host of visitors who crowded his trailer. His mother and sister-in-law. His attorney. Flyweight Michael Carbajal, who idolizes Duran, and Carbajal's brother Danny. WBC President Jose Sulaiman. Referee

IT'S NO MIRAGE

Should a ninth wonder of the world be required, Steve Wynn seems to have delivered it. Las Vegas' $630-million Mirage hotel-casino has not only become the ultimate in fantasy among destination resorts, but also a new and vital boxing force for the '90s.

One week after Thanksgiving, the 47-year-old Wynn, who also owns Downtown Las Vegas' Golden Nugget hotel, took the public into the next century with precise imagery and a South Seas theme. The 29-story Mirage's *daily* operating budget is $l-million.

Though the hype was not as lavish as for Leonard-Duran, Wynn, along with Bob Halloran, The Mirage's president of sports, proved their intentions by securing IBF middleweight champion Michael Nunn's title defense against welterweight champion Marlon Starling.



Wynn, acting as sole host and promoter, reportedly signed Nunn to a three-option contract. His goal is to bypass the middlemen (boxing's major promoters) and promote by himself.

Although Wynn and Top Rank's Bob Arum, who promoted Leonard-Duran III, were in open dispute in the final days leading up to the fight, Wynn is not turning his back on outside promoters.

"Right now, what is important is what Ray Leonard, Thomas Hearns, Marvin Hagler, and Michael Nunn are going to do in the future," Wynn told *The Ring*. "It all depends on the right ticket [site fees]. We feel things coming strictly from speculation are not a good idea to announce. We aren't going to make a deal in the media. However, as soon as a deal is made, we want the press and public to know about it."

Halloran, who was lured by Wynn two years ago after a l0-year stand in a similar post at next-door neighbor Caesars Palace, further explained Wynn's approach.

"The Mirage is open to any promoter with an attraction that makes good sense," he said. "And an attractive card doesn't have to be one that needs l6,000-plus seats like Leonard and Duran. We'll talk to anybody . . . Bob Arum, Don King, Dan Duva . . . whoever.

"If Arum still had Nunn under contract, he would have been the promoter of the Starling fight, but he doesn't have the contract. Dan Goossen [Nunn's manager] asked Steve Wynn to make the match. The Mirage can also handle its own business, and we are looking for good network matches."

On November 22, its opening day, The Mirage drew l20,000 people over the first l2 open-door hours. On the day of Leonard-Duran, the congestion of humanity was so intense that only guests or persons with fight tickets were permitted on the property. Leonard-Duran drew l6,305 spectators and a new state live gate record of $9.1-million.

Gambling, of course, is the only game that counts, but in order to blow out any and all competition, The Mirage includes eye-popping firsts like a 60-foot man-made volcano that erupts amid swirling flames every 30 minutes from dusk to dawn. Also: lagoons, grottos, and the world's largest fish tank, with 60,000 gallons of water (enough for four swimming pools) and a population including baby sharks, manta rays, and angel fish. A squadron of dolphins will debut outdoors in the spring.

Off the main casino, Wynn's *piece de resistance* is three glass-enclosed white tigers from the show of international illusionists Siegfried and Roy. These magnificent felines, raised in çaptivity, gaze at the hypnotized public, then curl up and sleep.

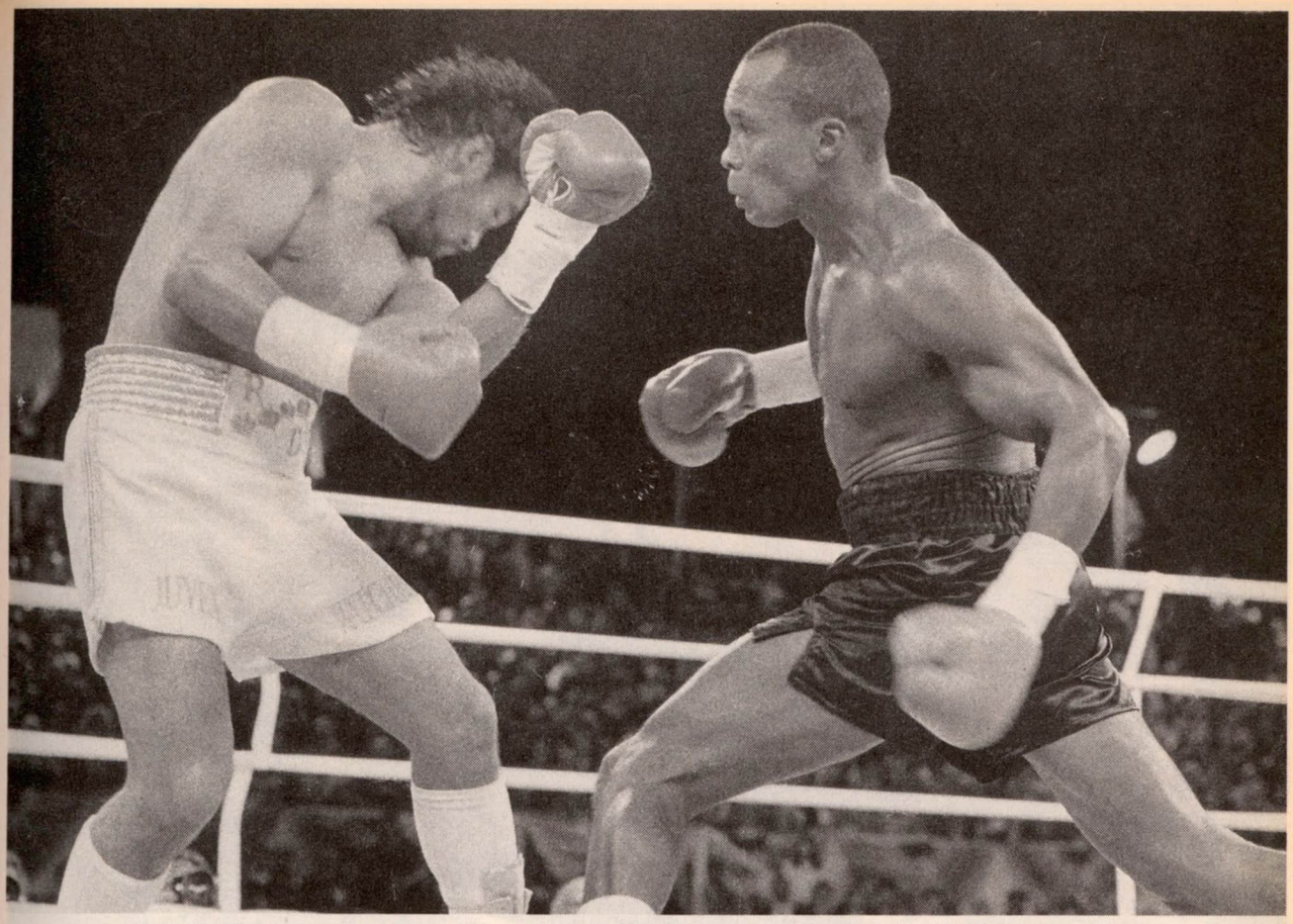
In the 48-hour period blanketing Leonard-Duran, The Mirage handled more than $30-million in on-site gaming. This figure does not include state-wide wagering on the fight, which appears to have surpassed the record $20-million set in April l987, when Sugar Ray came out of a five-year retirement to upset Hagler.

Perhaps the biggest winner of all was Las Vegas' economy. Hotels, transportation (local and domestic), entertainment, food and beverage, souvenirs, and miscellaneous sales generated about $l75-million.

"Uno Mas," of course, was a disappointment. But Wynn didn't seem to care.

"I thought it was a great performance by Ray Leonard," he said. "And if anyone doesn't like it, they should next time not buy a ticket. But they'll come when he fights. And they'll come in droves, because watching this fellow work is a special event, no matter who he fights."

—Jack Welsh



Leonard's offensive assaults were rare, but when he did strike, he scored enough points to build a comfortable points lead. Duran never threatened his familiar rival, though he did cut Leonard over both eyes in the last two rounds.

Steele. Dr. Flip Homansky and Chuck Minker from the Nevada commission. Manager and fellow Panamanian Luis Spada.

Duran joked with the visitors and his handlers as he dressed slowly, sat while Quinones taped his hands, and then warmed up.

"He's even more relaxed than usual," said Mike Acri, Duran's promoter and adviser. "Before the Barkley fight he was tense."

About 15 minutes before the opening bell, the desert sky was illuminated by a spectacular fireworks display. In New Orleans, for Leonard-Duran II, we were treated to Ray Charles, and his unmatched live rendition of "America The Beautiful." At The Mirage, Charles, for whom Ray Charles Leonard was named, sang on tape during the fireworks.

Charles may not have been ringside to motivate Leonard, but the presence of VIPs like Spartacus (Kirk Douglas) and Dirty Harry (Clint Eastwood) should have driven Duran to his most macho performance in years. Seconds after the last of the fireworks shells were shot skyward, Duran appeared. He seemed loose despite the cool (50+ degrees) conditions. There was nothing to suggest that he would give a blackjack effort, and nothing to suggest that he'd bust.

It was halfway through the second round that some in the crowd of 16,000 first began that invigorating chant: "Doo-ran! Doo-ran! Doo-ran!" That was a cue for Leonard, who mugged at Duran and faked a right hand.

"When I was taunting Duran," said Leonard, "that worked a great deal. If I could remind him of what took place then [in New Orleans] . . . "

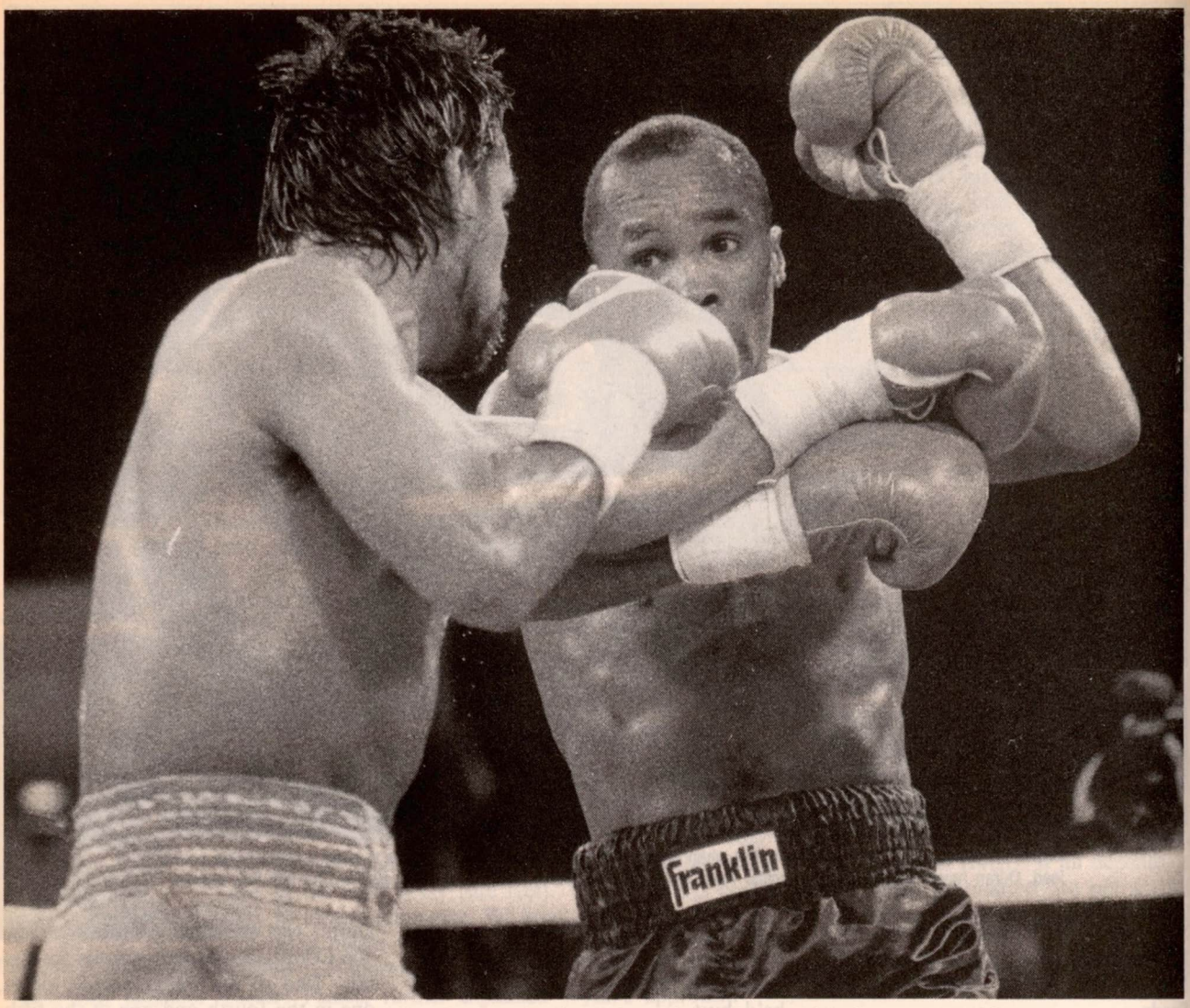
In the third, Duran began to feel a frustration that even New Orleans hadn't brought. His jab was a paw that reached for Leonard but never scratched him. And his crosses and hooks, fired with suitable intent, missed their long-gone target. Leonard never ceased his lateral movement, and, as a result, Duran's missiles, shot from the hip and aimed for Sugar Ray's face, rose and then died. Just like the shells of fireworks.

Leonard's offensive moments were brief but significant. The fourth and fifth rounds were void of action, and the fans booed with more spirit than Duran was showing. Somehow, judge Joe Cortez scored both stanzas for Duran. Two of the Panamanian's rights, one in the fourth and one in the fifth, had grazed Leonard's cheek. For Cortez, that must have been enough.

Potentially more significant was the butt in round five that opened a 10-stitch gash on the inside of Leonard's lower lip. Sugar Ray's mouth was dotted with blood for the rest of the night, giving the false impression that he was in a fight.

In the sixth, Leonard waited until the last minute to mount his only extended assault of the fight. The punches came quickly, as they always do with Sugar Ray: A right, an Ali shuffle, a left-right, a boloed right uppercut, and another right. That was about it. Duran never wobbled, but Cortez nevertheless scored the round 10-8 for Leonard. Even given the welcomed liberalized use of the 10-point must system, it seemed a one-point round.

For Duran, there was no comeback in the seventh or eighth, or any other round. In the seventh, the challenger, defensive to a fault, showed movement only when reacting to a pair of Leonard shoulder rolls. In the eighth, he



Did Duran give a maximum effort? Most ringsiders thought not. Leonard utilized constant lateral movement, and Duran never cut off the ring or initiated the kind of physical brawl that would have benefited his skills.

took the fight's best blow, a straight right, in the puss and never flinched. But Leonard, utilizing a new technique that, if nothing else, serves as a reminder to the judges that he has just struck, vigorously backpedaled as if he were expecting his foe to topple.

After the bell ending the eighth, Duran stepped to a neutral corner. Across the ring, Leonard, approaching his own corner, willingly pointed Duran in the right direction. The fight was already over, but the mental chess would be played out for the full 12 rounds.

"I was telling myself, 'God, this is a totally different Roberto,' " said Sandoval. "He was more sensitive, not the rugged, dirty fighter who showed no respect. He was humbled in a sense. I was telling myself it had to be his age."

As Leonard ages, his best weapon has become his hook. And his best hook came in the ninth. His gloved fist landed flush, but upon contact, both of Leonard's feet were in the air. So much for maximum leverage.

As the fighters reached the top of the stretch, the pace remained painfully slow, with Leonard moving mostly to his right to nullify the challenger's cross, and Duran, standing straight up, following him around the ring.

"If Roberto would have been smart," said Sandoval, "he would've used his waist to rock side to side. He did very little feinting."

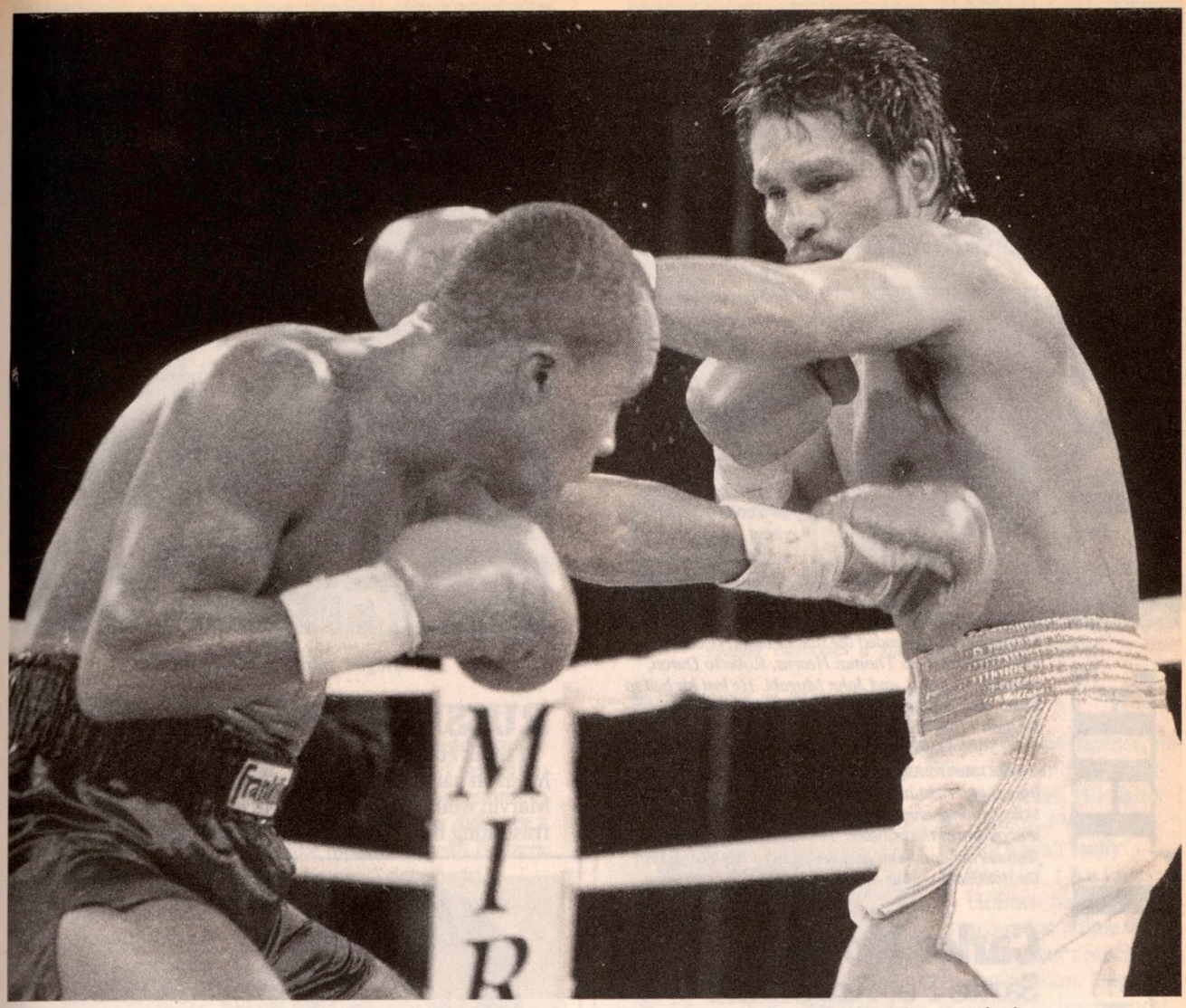
"I was waiting for *something,*" said Mike Trainer, Leonard's manager. "Waiting. Waiting. Waiting. Waiting for the desire. I was fascinated myself because I was wondering all week how it was gonna manifest itself."

After the 10th, the fans added a chant of "Bulls____! Bulls____!" to their boos. And some walked out, but, according to Leonard, only those who had lost money betting on Duran.

With 27 seconds left in the 11th, Duran scored with his best—and certainly most effective—shot, a right that seemed to cover Leonard's whole face. The blow opened a hideous cut on the champion's eyelid that would take 20 stitches to close. (In the last seconds of round 12, a hook opened another cut, at the corner of Leonard's right eye, that would need 30 stitches. In all, the two eye cuts and the cuts on the inside of Sugar Ray's lower and upper lips required a total of 60 stitches.) Leonard was particularly cautious in the 12th, and the fight ended, perhaps fittingly, with the fighters in a clinch, their arms wrapped around each other.

Afterward, Duran was evasive in explaining his effort. All he would offer was that he thought he won, that Leonard came to clown, not fight, and that he couldn't "jump at his opponent like a madman" because he didn't want to get hit.

The most revealing moment of the postfight press conference, however, came when a writer asked Carlos Heb-



Duran's body had been sufficiently hardened to withstand Leonard's occasional body blows, and his defense remained good enough to limit Sugar Ray's offense to a punch at a time. But Duran offered no weapons of his own.

bard, Duran's trainer and conditioner, whether he thought Duran had won. Hebbard hesitated, then answered.

"Sincerely, I didn't think he won," he said. "[Leonard] did a little bit more than us."

"Ray Leonard did not run tonight," said acerbic promoter Bob Arum. "He beat the *piss* out of Roberto Duran."

"Duran was so frustrated," said Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz. "The only time you can beat Duran is when he's mentally defeated. It was a Willie Pep-like performance. It was Leonard that was that good."

Good enough, perhaps, to extend his career. As has become his custom, Leonard answered the inevitable questions about his future by saying that he was going to go home, spend time with his family, and then decide how to spend the rest of his life. What will the unpredictable Leonard decide? Either that his legs remain strong enough to battle potential foes Thomas Hearns, Michael Nunn, or Marvin Hagler, or that, based on the Duran fight, "If I wanted to retire, I could retire with honor."

Since no one in boxing, and especially Ray Leonard, ever really retires, postfight speculation concerned Sugar Ray's next foe. Perhaps Leonard-Hearns needs a final chapter. Or perhaps Leonard will opt for the ultimate physical challenge by temporarily leaving the Seniors Tour and taking on Nunn. Or the scenario most often discussed in Las Vegas: a rematch with Hagler.

On many levels, Leonard-Hagler II seems the logical step for Leonard. Hagler hasn't fought in almost three years, and he presents less of a threat than the still-lethal Hearns or the primed Nunn. And, for that matter, fans are still arguing over the decision in Leonard-Hagler I.

As for Duran, the consensus was that had he been pitted against an aggressive fighter like Barkley, *Uno Mas* would have been much more than a study in ring artistry. Duran, of course, will fight on. ("Sugar Ray Leonard is not a man to retire me," he said after the bout.) He'll defend his WBC middleweight title, perhaps against the winner of Michael Olajide-Nigel Benn, and he'll be matched carefully.

"Fighters with the right styles," explained Acri. "Barkley. Mike McCallum."

Regardless, the Leonard fight was probably the last multimillion-dollar bout of the 38-year-old Duran's interminable career. At this point, it's easy to envision him fighting well into his 40s, traveling from tank town to tank town, maybe even abroad, as Sugar Ray Robinson did in the early-'60s.

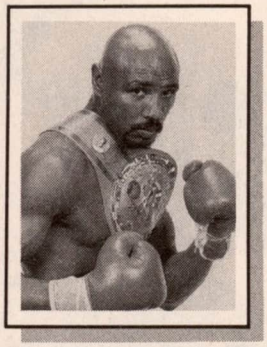
"He's always gonna need money," said Arum.

Because for Roberto Duran, the days of fighting on an empty stomach ended years ago. □

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

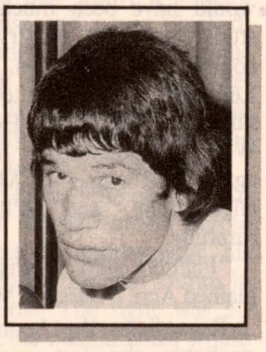
Marvin Hagler
Brockton, Massachusetts
1973-1987
62-3-2 with 52 kayos



Marvin Hagler, a southpaw of rare determination and focus, struggled against the world's best middleweights before finally receiving a shot at the middleweight title. Hagler failed in his first try, fighting to a controversial draw with Vito Antuofermo in 1979, but won the crown less than a year later with a third-round stoppage of Alan Minter in London. Hagler successfully defended the title 12 times, rejecting such challengers as Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, Mustafa Hamsho, and John Mugabi. He lost his belt to Sugar Ray Leonard, who outpointed him in 1987. Hagler hasn't fought since.

At 5'9", Hagler was shorter than most of his foes. Unlike most southpaws, he was equally dangerous with his left and right hands, and his considerable boxing skills and iron chin enabled him to outbox the boxers and outbrawl the brawlers. His meeting with Monzon features the dominant middleweight of the '80s against the dominant middleweight of the '70s.

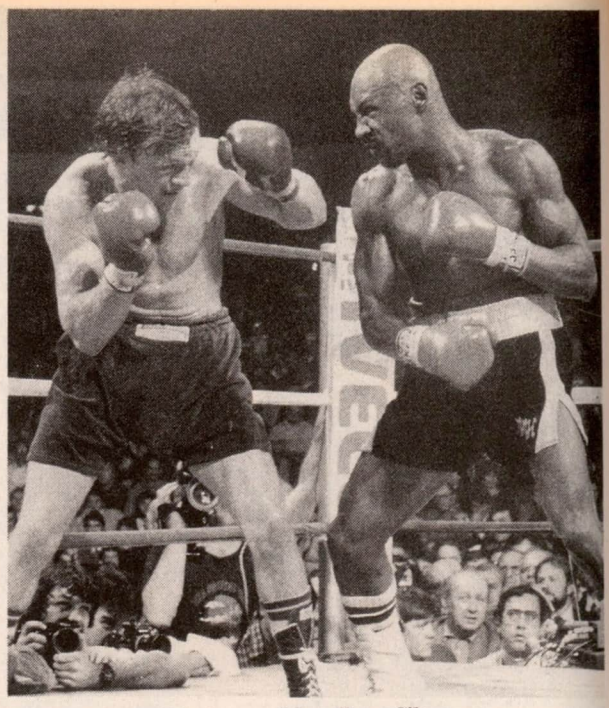
Carlos Monzon
Sante Fe, Argentina
1963-1977
89-3-8 with 61 kayos



Carlos Monzon, a slick Argentine superstar with a highly public persona, rates favorably with the most accomplished 160-pounders in history. Monzon fought 81 times before trying for a world title. In 1970, he traveled to Rome and dethroned outstanding middleweight king Nino Benvenuti via a 12th-round stoppage. From his coronation until his retirement in August 1977, Monzon was unbeatable. (He was undefeated for the last 13 years of his career.) He retained the crown a division-record 14 times and topped some of the finest fighters of his era, including Emile Griffith, Jose Napoles, Rodrigo Valdes, and Bennie Briscoe.

A 6'0" boxer-puncher with a deceivingly controlled style, Monzon analyzed his opponents and then struck them down with picture-perfect right crosses. Like Hagler, he never suffered a stoppage loss. And like Hagler, his will and pride were as valuable to him as his speed and strength.

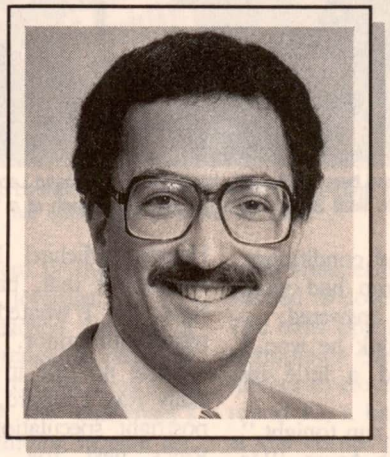
Who will win this battle of the legends?



Hagler punishes Tony Sibson

RUSSELL PELTZ

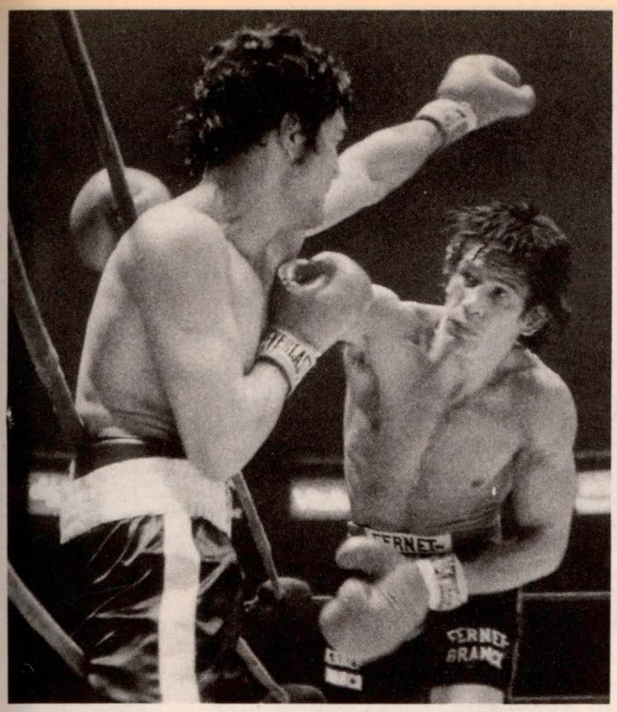
I think Hagler always had trouble with jabbers, and Monzon had a long, pawing jab that did the job. I think Marvin would have had trouble with that. It would be a frustrating fight for Marvin, with Monzon pawing and dropping in right hands. Monzon's hands weren't that slow, and he didn't waste a lot of punches. Their wills would be equal. It would probably go the limit.



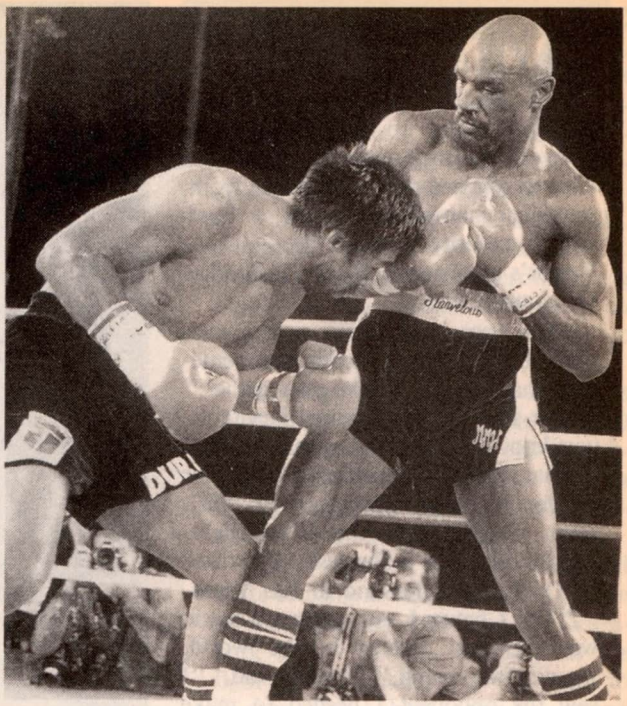
I think Monzon was one of the greatest middleweights of all time, because I think Rodrigo Valdes was one of the most underrated fighters of all time, and in their two fights, Monzon finished Valdes. Monzon and Hagler are both in the top 10 of all-time middleweights, but Monzon's in the top three, and Marvin is around eight, nine, or 10.

Marvin might set the pace, but Monzon would control it. Monzon always fought his own fight, and I'm not so sure Hagler always did. Marvin did better with brawlers, like Hamsho, Scypion, Sibson. Against Monzon, he'd have to go in, like Briscoe did. And I don't know if Hagler would've done any better than Briscoe did. *(Briscoe drew with Monzon in 1967 and lost on points in a 1972 title fight.)* Monzon would always be one step ahead of Marvin in a hard fight. I like Monzon on points.

Russell Peltz is a Philadelphia-based promoter who guided the career of perennial contender Bennie Briscoe, and staged Briscoe's bouts against both Monzon (in 1972) and Hagler (in 1978).



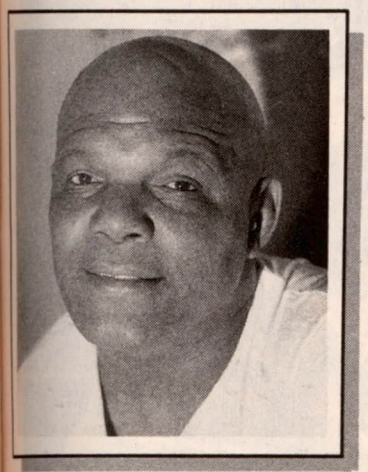
Monzon attacks against Tony Licata



Hagler outboxes a stubborn Roberto Duran

BENNIE BRISCOE

When I fought him, all Monzon did was jab and move. When I got inside, he clinched. I had him messed up in the ninth and 10th rounds of our [second] fight in Argentina, but the referee gave me the fast shuffle. Monzon did have a pretty good chin, though. And like most European fighters, he favored his right hand. He had a good right hand. Against Hagler, if he used his reach, he'd have some success with it.



Hagler wouldn't have much success on the inside because Monzon would clinch. Marvin would try and jab and beat Monzon to the body, that's all he could do with a fighter like that. If you come to Hagler, he's better. If he has to make the fight against a runner, he's not as good.

Neither fighter gets knocked out, so it would probably go the distance. If they fought in Argentina, in Luna Park, Monzon would automatically win. But I believe Monzon would beat Hagler anyway. Marvin, being a southpaw, and being as skillful as he is, would be difficult. Still, Monzon by decision.

Bennie Briscoe was a longtime middleweight contender from Philadelphia. In an outstanding career, he faced both Monzon (twice) and Hagler.

MIKE MARLEY

I don't know how great Carlos Monzon was because, unlike Hagler, he was never under the scrutiny of the American media. His fights were on TV, but the guy wasn't really watched. Like Larry Holmes, he came around at a time when there wasn't much competition. Hagler would've beaten most of the guys Monzon beat. But Monzon opponents like Bennie Briscoe and Rodrigo Valdes were definitely better than Hagler opponents like Vito Antuofermo and Mustafa Hamsho. And Hagler lost to Sugar Ray Leonard, and there's no way that Leonard was a better middleweight than Monzon.

Monzon came up with a strategy no matter the style of the opponent. Monzon had a jab and a right hand, and he was elusive. He would've gone backward and sideways, and Hagler would've chased and missed a helluva lot of punches. Hagler would've been frustrated. Guys that came forward, like Alan Minter, Hagler ate them up. But he wasn't as effective coming forward.

Monzon was an above-average puncher with the right hand, but he needed a multitude of punches to really hurt you. Marvin wasn't a one-punch kayo artist either. I see Monzon outboxing Hagler over 15 rounds. Monzon by *unanimous* decision."

Mike Marley is a boxing writer and columnist for the New York Post.

By Bernard Fernandez

MELDRICK TAYLOR said the first time he realized it was his destiny to fight Julio Cesar Chavez was on August 3, 1986, when Chavez retained the WBC super featherweight championship with a hard-earned majority 12-round decision over Taylor's stablemate, Rocky Lockridge, in Monte Carlo.

"We were in different weight divisions, but even then I knew that someday Chavez and I would get together," Taylor said. "It just seemed inevitable, you know? Like it was meant to be."

That feeling intensified for Taylor on the night of November 21, 1987, when Chavez won the WBA lightweight title with a flawless 11th-round TKO of Edwin Rosario in Las Vegas.

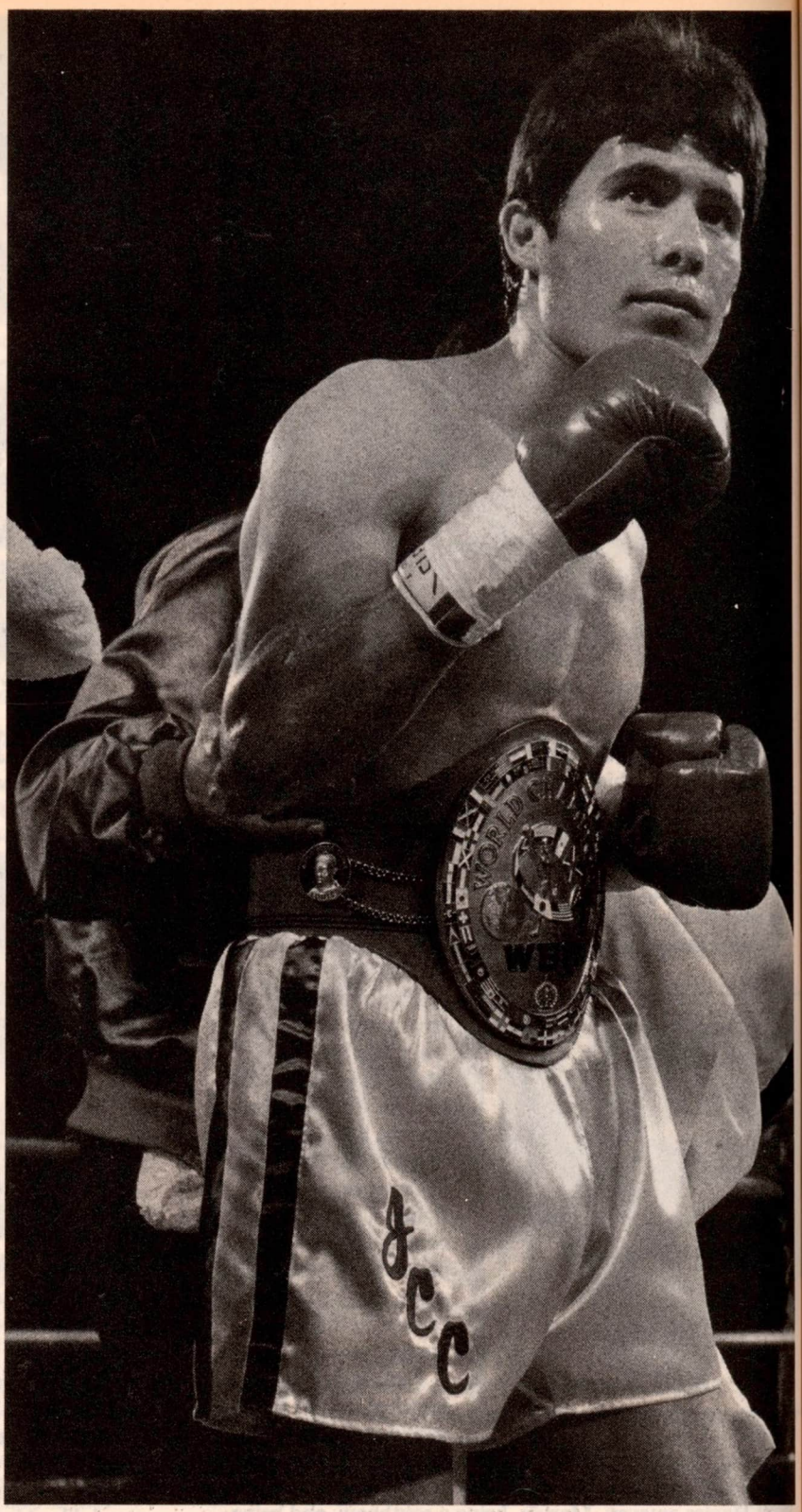
"The Chavez I saw against Rosario was the best fighter in the world, pound for pound," Taylor said. "I saw the opponent I needed to make me great."

Greatness—true greatness, the kind designed to stand the test of time—is the goal the 23-year-old Taylor has sought almost from the day he took up boxing 15 years ago. The gold medal he won at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and the IBF junior welterweight title he wrested from Buddy McGirt in September 1988, were significant, of course, but they were only weigh stops on the road to something far more significant.

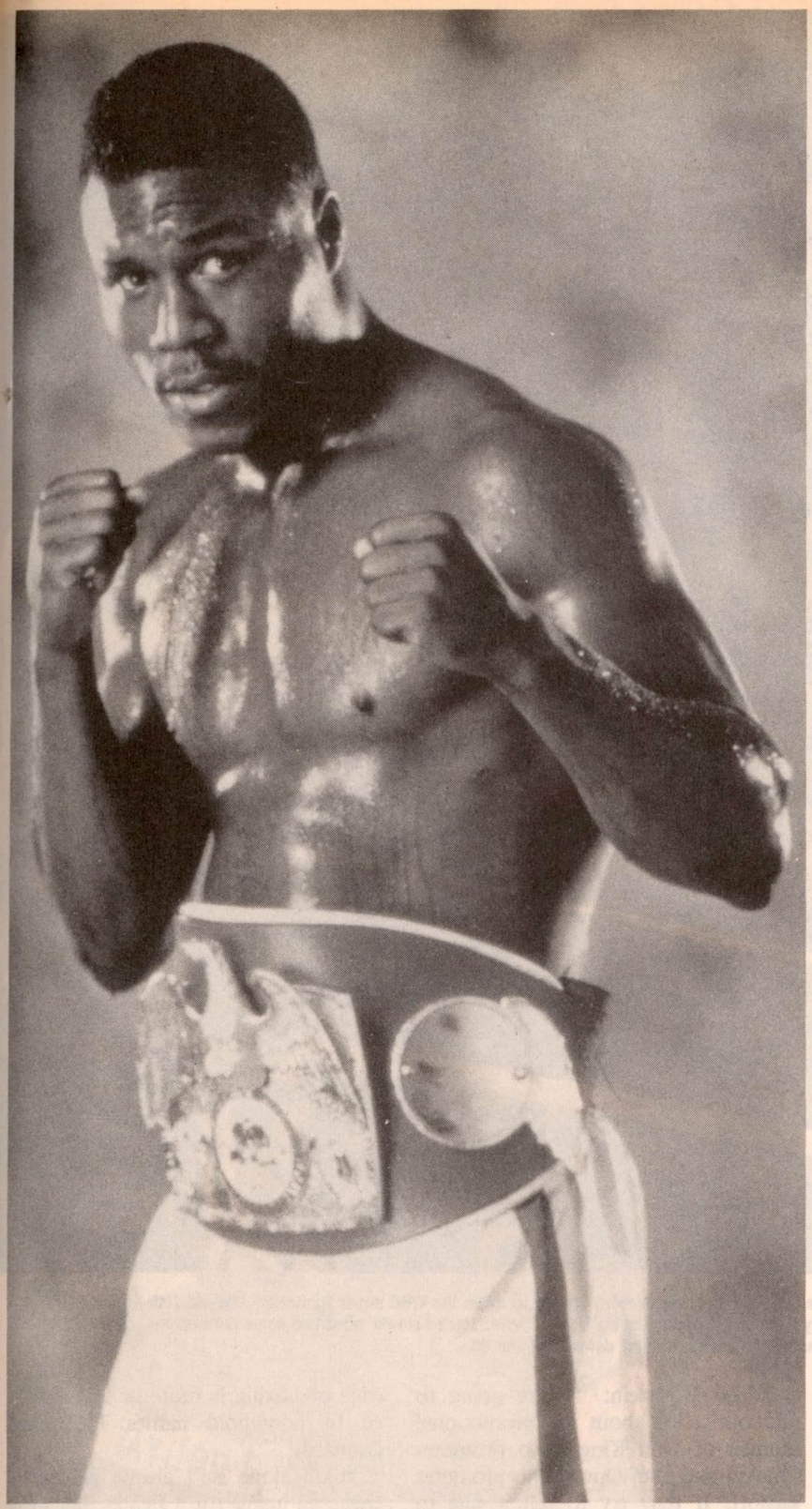
"Being recognized as the best fighter in the world, pound for pound, is everything to me," Taylor said. "It would be like winning the Olympics and my world title, all wrapped up in one package and multiplied by 10. It means being compared to Sugar Ray Robinson and the true legends of the sport.

"Right now, I think, Chavez and I are the two best pound-for-pound fighters in the world. But only one of us can be number one, and I think it's me. My life is going to change if I beat this guy. Make that *when* I beat him."

Perhaps the title sought by both Taylor and Chavez won't be universally conferred upon the winner of their March 17 showdown at the Las Vegas Hilton. Designation as boxing's best pound-for-pound fighter is, after all, a matter of individual interpretation, and regardless of the fight's outcome, it is reasonable to assume that Mike Tyson, Michael Nunn, and Pernell Whitaker will continue to command bases of support. But there seems to be little doubt that more is at stake here than



CHAVEZ-TAYLOR



The First Great Fight Of The '90s

Taylor's IBF title and Chavez' WBC belt, both of which will be on the line.

Veteran trainer and boxing analyst Gil Clancy said the Chavez-Taylor winner would make a strong case for declaring himself the best pound-for-pound fighter in the business.

"Oh, absolutely," Clancy said. "They're two of the best already. You're talking about two terrific young fighters in their primes. How often do you see boys like that paired up nowadays?"

Not nearly often enough, says Ross Greenburg, executive producer of HBO Sports. Thanks in part to HBO's substantial fight fee, Taylor and Mexico's Chavez each will earn more than $1-million, their largest paydays ever.

"Three months into the 1990s and we're looking at what figures to be one of the fights of the decade," Greenburg said. "In fact, it could be *the* fight of the decade, if it turns out to be everything I think it will be. I think we're looking at an all-time classic."

Taylor, who possesses perhaps the fastest hands in boxing, enters with a record of 23-0-1 (13); Chavez, fundamentally sound in all areas, brings in a mark of 66-0 (56). They're both action fighters, too, which virtually guarantees the sort of lively exchanges absent from so many of the overhyped and ultimately disappointing megafights foisted upon the public in recent years.

Despite the obvious talent of the combatants, however, there are those who wonder if either or both can attain superstardom merely by staging a wonderful fight. Low-key sorts who have steadfastly refused to create controversy where there is none, Chavez and Taylor never will be confused with such strutting, sequined dandies as Jorge Paez and Hector "Macho" Camacho.

"I'm myself," Taylor said. "I don't feel like I have to put on any kind of act or being something other than myself in order to be successful. It wouldn't be natural if I tried. I'm sorry if some people expect a lot of finger-pointing and I-hate-you stuff, but that's just not the way it is. I have nothing but respect for Chavez, and I think he has respect for me. This isn't a good guy vs. bad guy situation. We're both good guys."

Chavez concurs.

"Meldrick Taylor is a very good fighter and a very nice person," he said after stopping Alberto Cortez in December in Mexico City. "I'm going to defeat him on March 17, but that doesn't mean I don't like him."

Classic Mexican left hooks to the body like this one enabled Chavez to retain the WBC super lightweight title via 10th-round kayo over stubborn Sammy Fuentes. As in most of his fights, Chavez started slowly, absorbed some punishment, and then rallied with pinpoint punching. It was his first defense of the title.

Clancy and ESPN boxing analyst Al Bernstein are among those who think the placid personalities of Chavez and Taylor could prove a hindrance in their bid for superstardom, and lessen the impact of a fight that, from all appearances, appeals mostly to hard-core fans.

"As good as they are, these guys will not pull in the peripheral fight fan, the unsophisticated fight fan, the way Sugar Ray Leonard-Robert Duran III did," Clancy said. "It's not an 'event'; it's a fight. It's a great fight, but that's all it is."

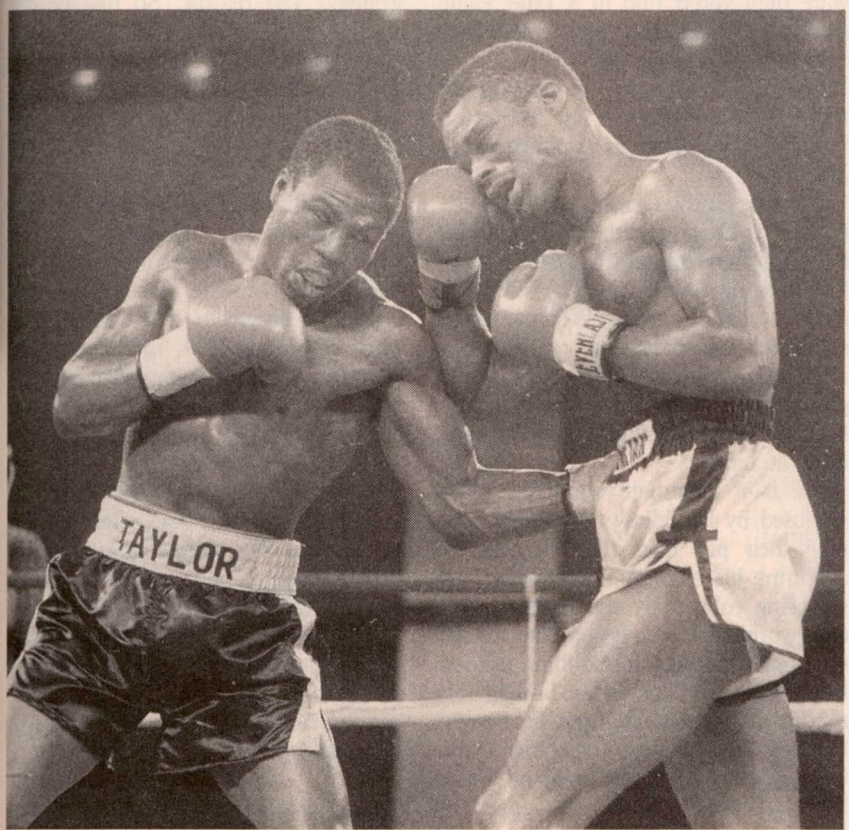
Added Bernstein: "We're going to find out a lot about the promotional acumen of Don King [who promotes Chavez] and Dan Duva [who promotes Taylor]. If they try to sell it just to boxing fans, it will not do huge business. It'll do okay. They need to market this fight to everybody. They need to explain to people that this is something truly special. It's the kind of fight that everybody says boxing needs but never had. Well, here it is."

Greenburg acknowledges that Chavez-Taylor might be something of a tough sell to fringe fans whose knowledge of boxing is more or less restricted to household names Tyson and Leonard.

"Skill alone isn't always enough to create an image for a fighter, but we're purists here," Greenburg said. "We know exactly what we're buying and we trust that our subscribers are knowledgeable enough to recognize that we're putting two of the best fighters in the world in the ring together.

"Besides, we're the type of network that likes to create superstars and then ride with them. And the winner of this

Taylor was an unbeaten underdog when he challenged the respected Buddy McGirt in September 1988. But after being hurt by the champion in round one, the Philadelphian sped past McGirt en route to a 12th-round stoppage victory. Taylor's impressive win gave him the IBF 140-pound crown.



In his first defense of the IBF junior welterweight title, Taylor outworked challenger John Meekins and scored a seventh-round kayo. Meekins' vaunted power never surfaced against the quicker champion.

fight is going to be recognized as a superstar. Will he be recognized as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world? Maybe. In my opinion, Chavez and Taylor each is one fight away from becoming that sort of marquee attraction. The situation reminds me of November 1982, when we televised Alexis Arguello's bid to win the junior welterweight title from Aaron Pryor. People said, 'What a great matchup, two of the best fighters in the world, pound for pound.' Arguello and Pryor both had attained a certain level of recognition, but neither had the widespread acclaim of, say, Sugar Ray Leonard.

"I think they got that, or at least approached it, after they put on one of the great fights in boxing history. Even though Arguello lost, I think they both came away with a greater status than they had going in."

Chavez, in fact, has been popping up regularly on HBO telecasts since his eye-opening demolition of the highly regarded Rosario. Even though he had held the WBC super featherweight title for more than three years, Chavez had rarely fought outside Mexico and was largely unknown to American

(Continued on page 72)

"THIS MEANS MORE TO ME THAN MONEY"

By Jeff Ryan

PERNELL WHITAKER IS sidetracked. For him, that's nothing new. He's been detoured by a loss in the Olympic Box-Offs en route to the gold at the '84 Games; by injuries en route to a title shot; by some unjust scoring en route to the world title; and, recently, by a lack of recognition en route to superstar status. But now, more than an hour late for a photo session, he is sitting in, of all places, a Virginia Beach gas station. The man who owns a WBC belt, an IBF belt, and is en route to pick up the belt awarded to *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year, can't find himself a fan belt.

"Pete [as he's known to his friends] just called and said they're trying to get him one," reports one of the trainers at Wareing's Gym, a palace of pumping iron and pectorals that is Whitaker's usual training spot and the site of today's rendezvous. "He said he'll be here soon."

Of course he will. Never doubted it for a second. No matter what obstacles he encounters, doesn't Whitaker *always* end up where he wants to be? At 1:30, about 90 minutes late, he finally strolls into the ironworks, stopping to say hello to a few regulars. Standing amid the hulks and the bulks, the 5'5", 135-pound "Sweet Pea" looks like the "before" picture in a Charles Atlas ad. And isn't that ironic? This is a champion, after all, who spent 1989 kicking sand on the rest of the lightweight division.

Just five days earlier, he had stopped Martin Galvan in the third round of a non-title bout in Paris. It was the exclamation point on a year that saw him outpoint Greg Haugen for the IBF crown, kayo the division's hardest puncher, Louie Lomeli, and decision Jose Luis Ramirez for the WBC belt. You wanna talk dominance? Whitaker fought a total of 30 rounds in '89, and it can be argued that he didn't lose a single one of them. Hell, even Steffi Graf drops a set every once in a while.

Despite the unscheduled visit to Mr. Goodwrench, Whitaker's mood on this day is upbeat. He is relaxed and cooperative, and during a tiring 40 minutes of posing with his belts—more hardware than you'd find in a True Value store—he voices but one teeny-weeny complaint.

"Man," he says to his mother and father, who are seated a few feet away, "all this forced smilin' is hurtin' my jaw."

Most days, the Cheshire cat with the goatee has to force the smile *off* his face. He may or may not be boxing's best overall fighter. He is surely its most positive thinker. Whitaker is a smile-and-handshake guy in a sneer-and-backstab business, someone whose pleasures are simple: movies, pickup basketball games, and people smiling back at him.

He is a teammate who was more enthused by his fellow Olympians winning their pro titles than he was by capturing his own. A fighter, who, after being robbed by the judges in his first world title bout, spent the rest of the night consoling his sobbing trainer, Lou Duva. A son who bought his mother a nicer house than he bought himself. A satisfied customer who keeps his title belts on display at Wareing's because he knows it's good for their business. And a conscientious role model who won't ever refuse an autograph request, regardless of where he's approached.

"If you get too big-headed, then when you take that first fall, people only remember you being arrogant," he explains. "And when you go to them for condolence, they're gonna turn you down."

He is a champion who seems to be farther removed from the possibility of losing than any other, except, perhaps, Mike Tyson. Yet, he talks often of that "first fall." He won't watch tapes of his opponents, choosing instead to let his trainers completely map out his strategy. The reason? So that he can absolve himself of blame if anything goes wrong. He is a masterful craftsman fulfilling his incredible potential and, at the same time, a true overachiever. A confident bad ass, and a cautious realist.

The confidence stems from the ability to always do anything he wanted with his fists. Anything from punching out sailors from the nearby Navy base in his hometown of Norfolk, Virginia, when he was just 13, to capturing the amateur world championship, gold medals at the Pan-Am Games and Olympics, and two professional world title belts.

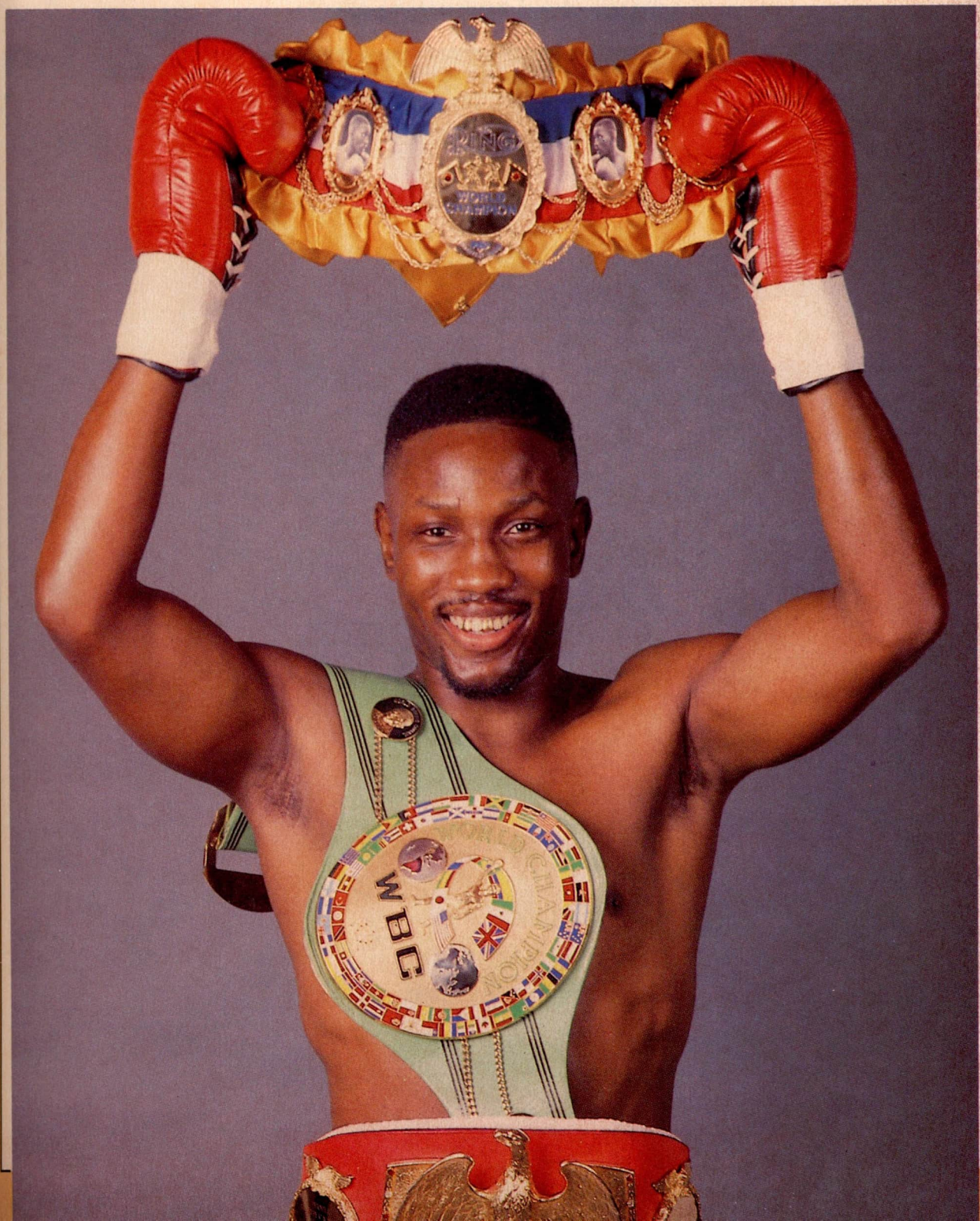
The caution has been molded by the numerous setbacks that often made it appear that *The Pernell Whitaker Story* was going to be the most complicated medical soap opera this side of *General Hospital.* One that featured not a cast of thousands, but thousands of casts. Not to mention several sets of crutches and a few hundred miles of first aid tape.

He is incredibly loyal to those around him. He's had the same promoter, managers, and trainer throughout his five-year career. He has fought

(Continued on page 43)

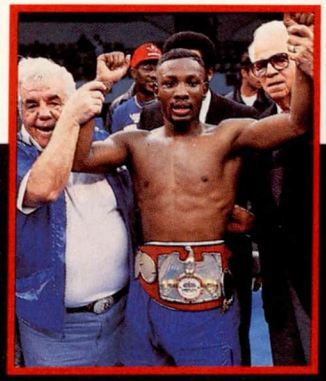
PERNELL WHITAKER

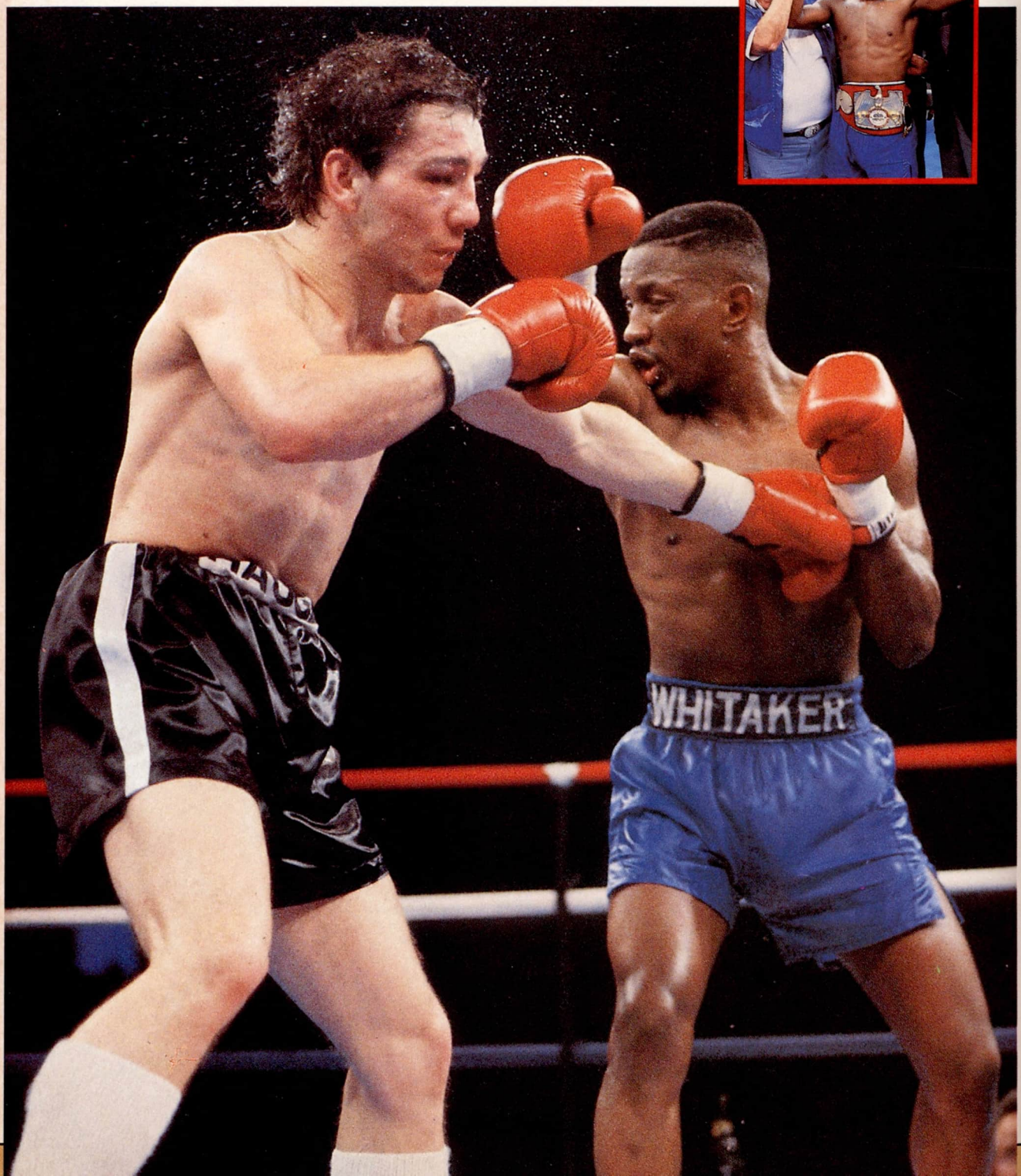
THE RING's
Fighter Of The Year



WHITAKER W 12 GREG HAUGEN

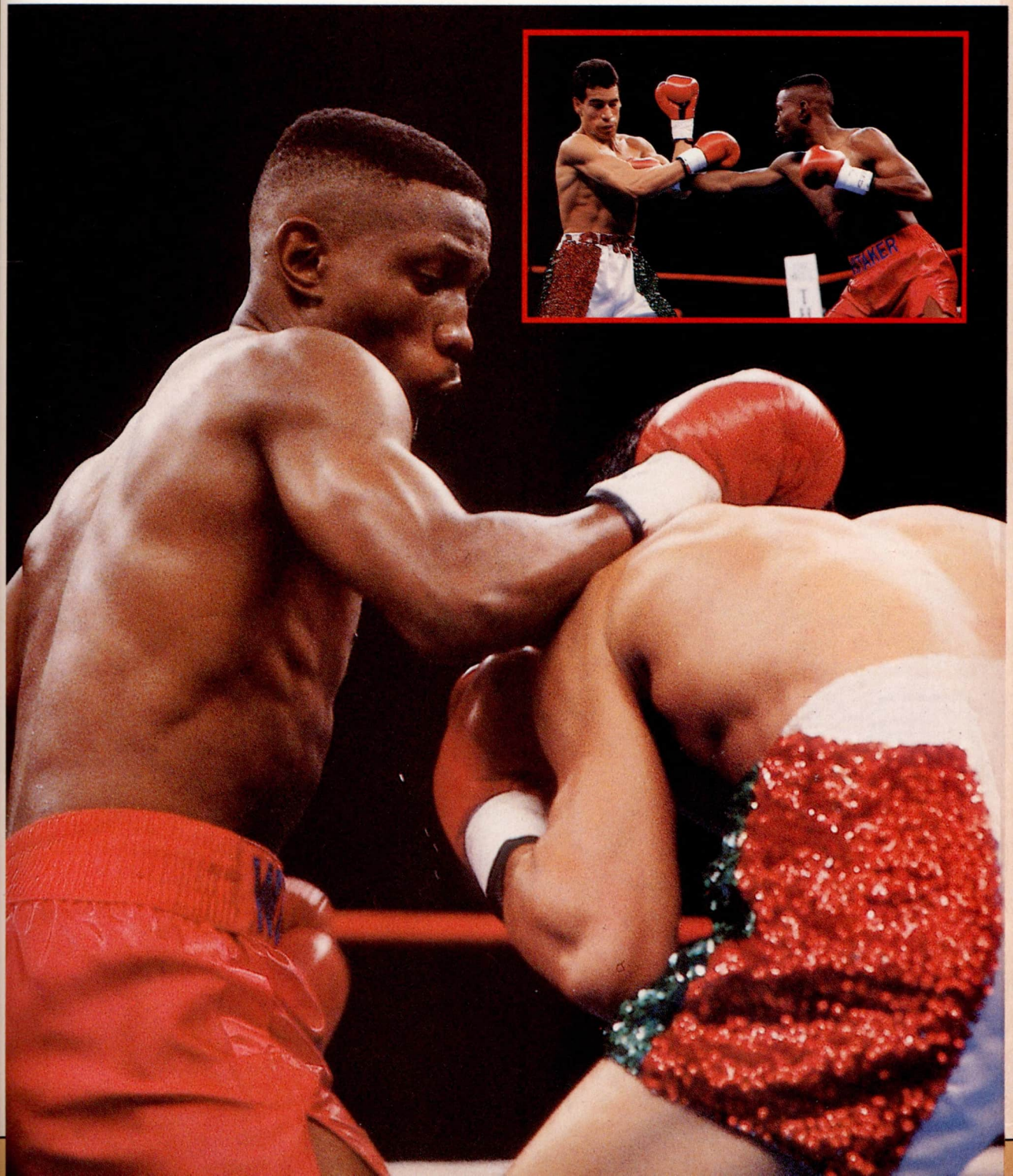
Hampton Beach, Virginia
February 18, 1989
(Wins IBF Lightweight Title)



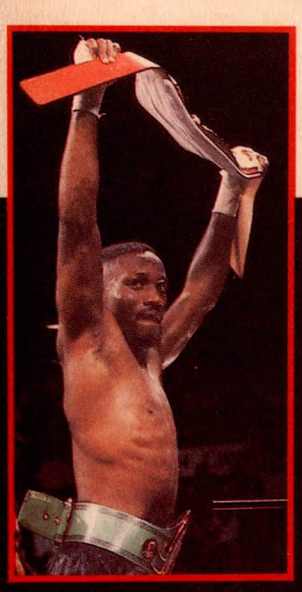


WHITAKER KO 3 LOUIE LOMELI

Norfolk, Virginia
April 30, 1989
(Retains IBF Lightweight Title)



WHITAKER
W 12
JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ



Norfolk, Virginia
August 20, 1989
(Wins WBC Lightweight Title)

all but one of his big bouts in front of the home folks in Virginia. Ask him if he'd ever consider squaring off with his buddy, Meldrick Taylor, and he cringes as though he's just caught a left hook to the solar plexus. There will be other lucrative purses. Friendships are to be cherished.

Friends, he'll tell you, are the reason that on this afternoon, he's holding a Fighter of the Year belt and not a crack pipe in his hands. It was his friends who kept him from being sucked into the whirlpool of drugs and crime swirling around Young Park, the Norfolk housing project where he grew up. Whitaker's mother, Novella, and father, Raymond, did their best to keep Pernell and his four sisters and two brothers out of trouble, but they couldn't watch their kids 24 hours a day. Fortunately, they had help.

"When I lived in Young Park, some of my friends were doing drugs," Whitaker recalls, "but they never did it around me and never let me get like them. If they were doin' it, it would be, 'Here comes Pete, we better get rid of this stuff in case the police come and we're all together.' A lot of them boxed, too, so they knew I was going someplace. They would never even let me stay out late. At 11 o'clock, they'd say, 'Pete, you gotta go, man.' Those guys were like trainers and coaches to me. Some of 'em are in jail now, some died, but I feel like they're all still with me."

It is because Young Park holds out such little promise for its residents that Pernell Whitaker is an overachiever. Even with his guardian angels watching over him, the odds of Whitaker making it out of the projects were long, at best. Growing up, he often lamented the lack of a local role model. So he looked elsewhere for his inspiration. Across the street, as a matter of fact. There, looming like a giant flying saucer, was the Scope, Norfolk's 13,000-seat arena. And Whitaker started dreaming about the day he'd be champion and could defend his title in his own backyard. Literally.

"It was 13 steps away," says Whitaker, "and I always said, 'One day, I'm going across the street. I'm gonna bring a title fight to the Scope. I went there all the time when I was a little kid. We used to find a way to sneak in sometime. We would watch the Squires [of the now-defunct ABA], Dr. J played there, and we'd watch wrestling. I remember seeing [pro wrestler] Wahoo McDaniel and these guys fallin' on the concrete floor. That was *real.* I don't see why they call it fake. It looks real to me. You can't practice falling on the floor."

The day Whitaker had been dreaming of arrived this past August, when he made WBC titlist Ramirez, a veteran of 111 pro fights, look like a kid who had

PERNELL WHITAKER: THE YEAR THAT WAS

WBC and IBF lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker was chosen as *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year based on his masterful performances in three title-fight victories. In 1989, Whitaker fought 26 full rounds in title bouts. On *The Ring's* scorecards, his record was a remarkable 24-1-1.

● **Whitaker W 12 Greg Haugen, Hampton Beach, Virginia, February 18, 1989:** Tough guy Haugen was thought to possess underrated boxing skills, but against Whitaker the defending IBF champion was sadly outclassed.

"For the first time I can remember," Haugen said, "I couldn't get off. He was standing there, in front of me, I knew what to do, I just couldn't do it. I didn't throw any punches. And a lot of that had to do with Pernell."

Perpelexed, Haugen fought without fire. As a result, Whitaker adopted an offensive game plan, pouring in blows to the head and body when Haugen lay against the ropes.

In round six, an overhand left dropped Haugen for the first time in his career. There was no threat of a knockout over the second half of the fight, but Whitaker continued to punch in flurries. He never decelerated, in sharp contrast to his previous title-fight effort, against Jose Luis Ramirez.

The scoring: 120-107, 120-107, and 118-109, all for Whitaker.

"I ran into a better fighter today," said Haugen. "I don't see anybody beating him."

● **Whitaker KO 3 Louie Lomeli, Norfolk, Virginia, April 30, 1989:** The year's only moment of danger for Whitaker came in the second round. With Whitaker boxing neatly along the ropes, the hard-hitting Lomeli connected with a crisp counter hook. Whitaker shook all the way down to his boxing boots but remained upright. Lomeli wisely attacked. Seconds later, however, a poised Whitaker's power left enabled him to regain control.

In the first and third rounds, Whitaker flaunted all his skills. The champion's darting movement robbed the challenger of his only real weapon, a hammering right, and his uppercuts and counter crosses reduced Lomeli to a helpless novice.

Late in the third, a left hook caught Lomeli, who was reaching with a right hand. Boom! The challenger beat referee Al Rothenberg's count, but was felled again by the effect of eight unanswered blows, most of them chopping lefts. This time, Rothenberg didn't bother to count.

"The critics said I couldn't punch," Whitaker said. "I liked that left hand a lot."

● **Whitaker W 12 Jose Luis Ramirez, Norfolk, Virginia, August 20, 1989:** Well, at least Ramirez will always have Paris. It was there that the Mexican southpaw outpointed Whitaker in March 1988. It didn't matter that most boxing observers thought the decision to be one of the decade's worst. Whitaker, his left hand broken early in the fight, left Paris a crushed and frustrated loser.

In the rematch, Whitaker started quickly. As he had in Paris, he built what seemed a comfortable points lead. Then he cruised in the seventh and eighth rounds, and finished with a puncuation mark, drawing defending WBC titlist Ramirez into the corners in round 12 and sliding out just as the veteran's punches arrived.

The scoring: 117-111, 120-109, and 120-109, all for Whitaker.

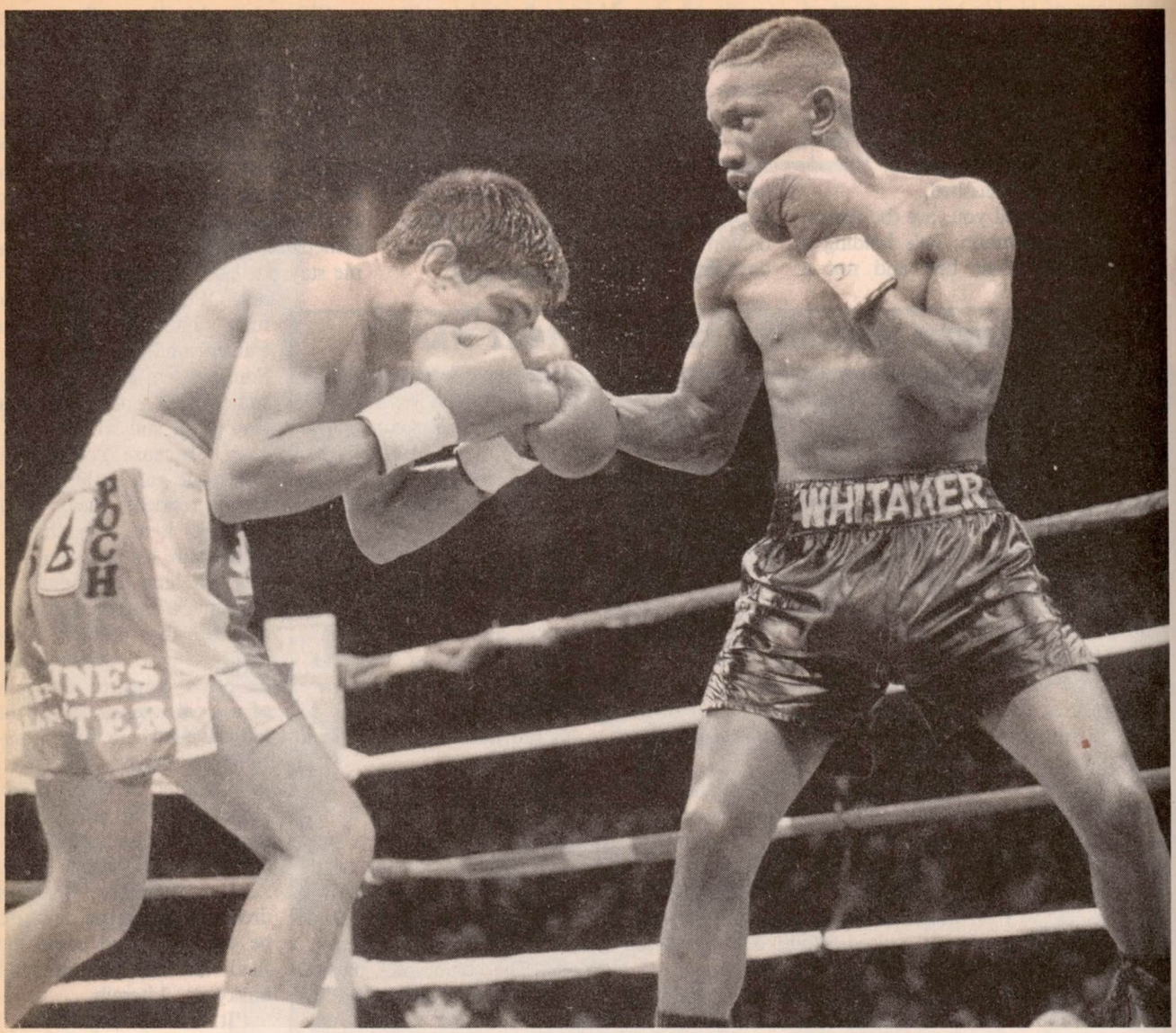
Ramirez was a predictably easy target. What was most impressive about Whitaker's win, however, was that he scored points without neglecting defense. Ramirez never threatened. In fact, the powerpuncher's most effective moment came in the last round, when his *jabs* began to reach Whitaker.

"He's a totally different fighter from the last fight," said Ramirez. "He's a lot tougher and a lot more experienced, and he seemed a lot more confident."

Before the 12th round, Whitaker gave cornerman Lou Duva a peck on the cheek. "Don't worry, baby, don't worry," Whitaker told Captain Lou.

If you were in Pernell Whitaker's corner in 1989, there was little reason to worry at all.

—Steve Farhood



Whitaker played matador to the bull-like rushes of Mexican strongman Jose Luis Ramirez in this August 1989 shootout. Whitaker was a Peashooter, peppering Ramirez from every angle and capturing an easy unanimous decision. The victory avenged Whitaker's 1988 fleecing in Paris.

strolled into the ring by mistake on the way to his piano lesson. Whitaker boxed marvelously, inventing punching angles, peppering the muscular brawler with blazing combinations, and even dominating the infighting. For Sweet Pea, it was the sweetest revenge. Seventeen months earlier, he had administered a similar, though less thorough, beating to Ramirez in the Mexican's adopted home of Paris (Whitaker clearly won nine of the 12 rounds), and then crumpled to the canvas in despair as he heard Ramirez announced the winner via split decision.

Naturally, though, it didn't take long for Whitaker's smile to reappear.

"I couldn't get too upset over it," he says. "Everybody around me did, but I didn't. I knew that it was God testing me. He wanted to see if I could pass."

Yet, in those quiet moments alone with his thoughts, Whitaker wondered why his resolve was being tested over and over again. As far back as the 1984 Olympic Box-Offs he had been confronted with adversity, the difference being, back then, he wanted to give in to the tough times and simply walk away.

Whitaker had beaten Joey Belinc at the Olympic Trials, and entering the Box-Offs at Caesars Palace, he needed just one more win to secure a spot on the team. On the first night, Whitaker was convinced that his jab had controlled the action, but he lost a 5-0 decision. Frustrated, he went back to his hotel room, grabbed his suitcase, and yelled, "To hell with tomorrow. I'm going home." He was serious.

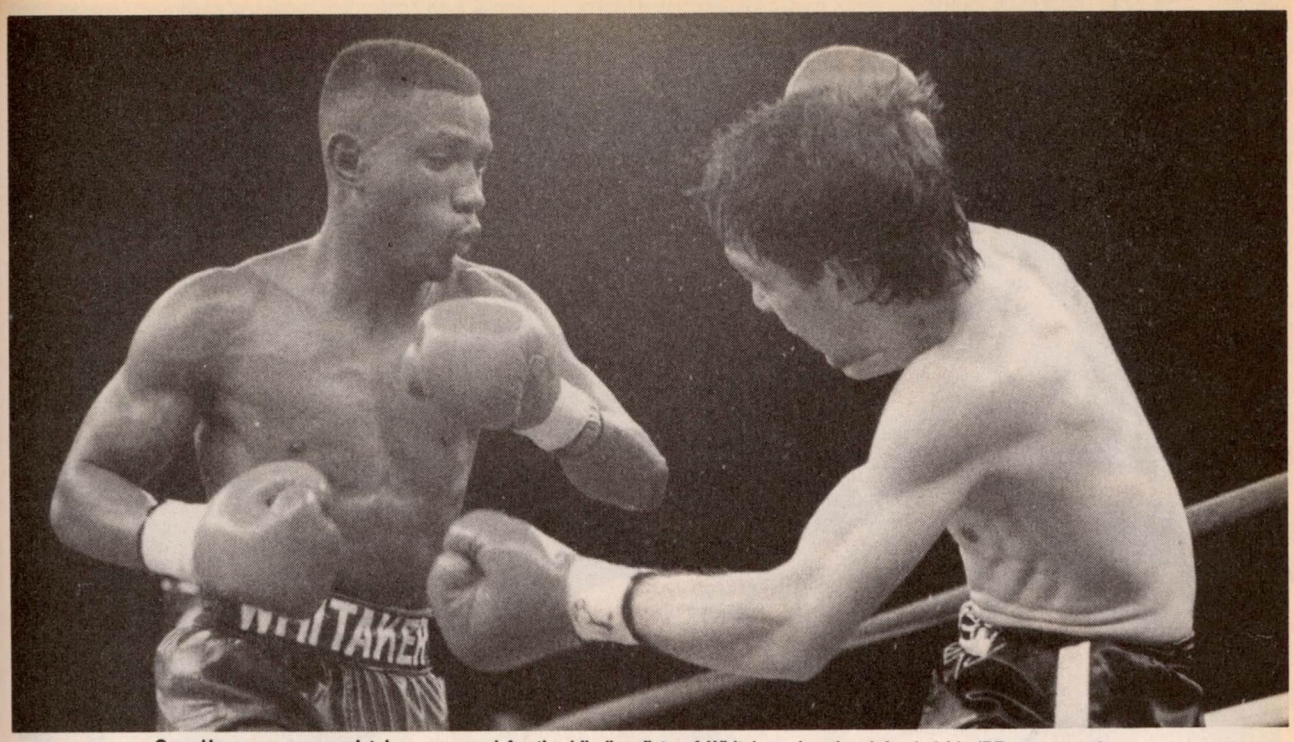
"I figured, if I'm gonna come back and fight hard, and you're gonna give him the decision again, you might as well go head and let him make the team. You don't need me."

Whitaker's father, his trainer, Lou Duva, his teammate, Mark Breland, and Rovonda Anthony, who was then Sweet Pea's girlfriend, all tried to talk him out of leaving. But it was the quietest voice that he heard the loudest, the voice of his mother.

"You promised me something," she told her son. "A gold medal and a home."

"That brought me back into the ring," Whitaker says. "If I didn't fight, my dream would have been gone and I'd have to look at her face after I promised her something and didn't deliver."

Whitaker delivered on his first promise, decisioning Belinc the next night and then capturing the gold with four decisions and a knockout in Los Angeles. When he turned pro, he made good on the second promise,



Greg Haugen was completely unprepared for the blinding fists of Whitaker when he defended his IBF crown against Sweet Pea last February. Whitaker left Haugen a bruised and swollen mess, earning a unanimous verdict, much to the delight of a Hampton, Virginia, crowd.

THE RING'S FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Pernell Whitaker, *The Ring's* 1989 Fighter of the Year, joins a special fraternity of fighters. He becomes the sixth lightweight to win the award, joining Tony Canzoneri, Barney Ross, Beau Jack, Ike Williams, and Joe Brown. A complete listing:

1928: Gene Tunney
1929: Tommy Loughran
1930: Max Schmeling
1931: Tommy Loughran
1932: Jack Sharkey
1933: No Award
1934: Tony Canzoneri/Barney Ross
1935: Barney Ross
1936: Joe Louis
1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
1942: Ray Robinson
1943: Fred Apostoli
1944: Beau Jack
1945: Willie Pep
1946: Tony Zale
1947: Gus Lesnevich
1948: Ike Williams
1949: Ezzard Charles
1950: Ezzard Charles
1951: Ray Robinson
1952: Rocky Marciano
1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
1956: Floyd Patterson
1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker

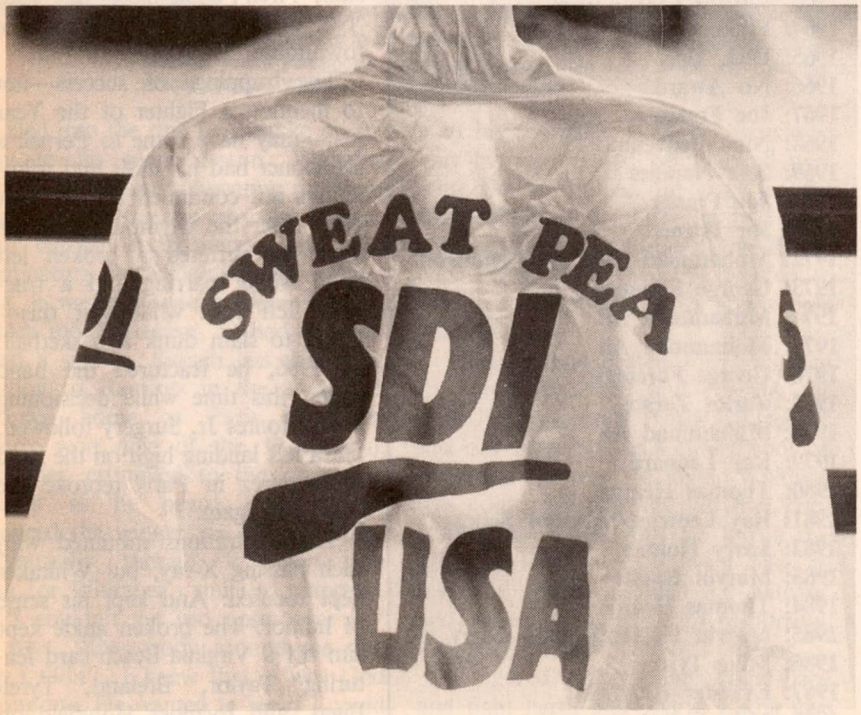
moving his parents out of Young Park and into a house on the outskirts of town, in an area called The Gardens. Now, their only hassle is the occasional jet noise from nearby Norfolk International.

"When we went looking to buy the house, I was showing my mother some townhouses," Whitaker says with a chuckle, "and I said, 'Aren't these nice?' She said, 'No, I want a *real* house, not a townhouse.' "

The trappings of success—not to mention a Fighter of the Year belt—may have come to Pernell a lot sooner had his trials and tribulations not continued for the four years after the Olympics. First, in 1985, he suffered a broken left hand while sparring and a fractured left foot while—get this—trying to slam dunk a basketball. In 1986, he fractured the hand again, this time while decisioning John Montes Jr. Surgery followed, but a left landing high on the head of Ramirez in Paris rebroke the hand yet again.

The frustrations mounted with each passing X-ray, but Whitaker kept focused. And kept his sense of humor. The broken ankle kept him off a Virginia Beach card featuring Taylor, Breland, Tyrell Biggs, and Evander Holyfield on December 21, 1985, but Sweet Pea stole the show anyway. After the

Whitaker ties up challenger Louie Lomeli before halting the powerhitter in round three. The April 1989 defense was one of Whitaker's most impressive.



The robe worn by Sweat Pea, uh *Sweet* Pea, in his last bout of '89 is a constant reminder that Whitaker's quest for worldwide recognition is far from over.

main event, he and his sweetheart Rovonda climbed into the ring and got married.

In 1989, Sweet Pea managed to stay healthy, the talent and promise reached an intersection at the same time, and the result was awesome. In February, Whitaker wiped the smirk off IBF champion Haugen's face with a breathtaking display of speed and accuracy. Haugen, who wasn't even intimidated when he fought 220-pound lumberjacks in the gin mills of Alaska years earlier, was reluctant to throw punches for fear of being answered with blinding counters. It didn't matter. He got hit anyway, and in round six was put down for the first time in 26 career outings.

Ironically, it is a lack of power that remains Whitaker's biggest weakness. He hammered Haugen and Ramirez at will, but only scored a total of one knockdown in 24 rounds against them. Knockouts in Whitaker's next two bouts, a pay-per-view defense against Freddie Pendleton that was scheduled for the undercard of the Camacho-Pazienza bout on February 3, and an

Touch lips and come out hugging: **Whitaker's two greatest loves in the world are his wife, Rovonda, and the sport of boxing. It's not surprising, therefore, that the Whitakers were married in—you guessed it—a boxing ring on December 21, 1985, in Virginia Beach.**

April shootout with junior lightweight king Azumah Nelson on HBO, would go a long way toward getting Whitaker the mainstream notice he still hasn't managed to obtain.

Whitaker admits he's disappointed that his star is still shining, for the most part, only over Virginia, but as always, he finds something positive about the situation.

"Somebody had to be watching me and saying good things about me if you named me Fighter of the Year," he says. "This means more to me than money. I don't get any money for it, but I get some recognition. I'd rather have that than the money. This belt is something I'm gonna always have, to show my kids and my grandkids."

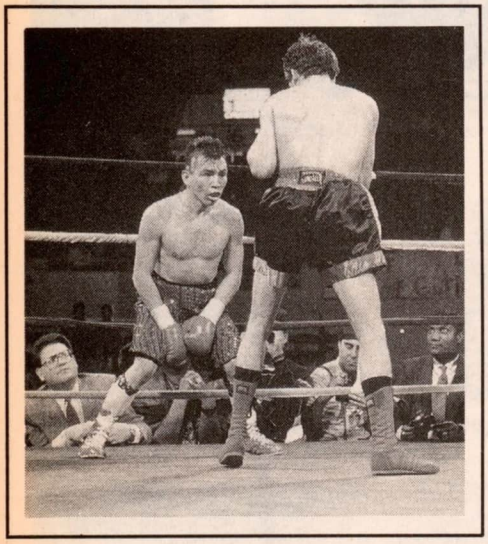
And if they ever wonder why grandpa never got big-headed, like so many other fighters did through the years, he has something else he can show them: his robe from the Galvan fight. It was made for him in France, where, it is safe to assume, either recognition of American champions or English language dictionaries are in short supply. The name on the back of the robe: *"Sweat* Pea."

The realist in Pernell Whitaker should know that not even two world title belts, a gold medal, and *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year honors means a whole lot to a frayed fan belt or a Frenchman who can't spell. □

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH: Jorge Paez

Pernell Whitaker was named *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year, but Mexico's Paez, who made his fifth defense of the IBF featherweight title with a sixth-round TKO over Lupe Gutierrez at the Lawlor Events Center in Reno, Nevada, was a strong runner-up. Think about it: At the end of 1988, Paez seemed a refreshing but limited titleholder who needed no less than three final-round knockdowns to dethrone Calvin Grove. At the end of 1989, however, Paez was an established champion who had gained the respect of the boxing world with his ring skills, not his ring antics.



In 1989, Paez was among boxing's busiest champions. He retained the crown with stoppages against Grove, Jose Mario Lopez, and Gutierrez, a draw versus Louie Espinoza, and a decision over Stevie Cruz. Somehow, he found time to include two non-title fights, triumphs over Alan Makitoki and Fernando Segura. Paez remains unpredictable, but a four-fight deal with NBC for 1990 means he's also become a mainstream network weekend star.

In preparing for Gutierrez, Paez, 33-2-2 (25), struggled to make weight, and it took him four trips to the scale to reach 126 pounds. But he hardly seemed a drained fighter. Gutierrez, 125¾, San Jose, California, opened quickly and unleashed his left hook to the body in the very first round. He also enjoyed a strong second, during which the champion, who boxed with the word MEXICALI shaved into the side of his head, fought off the ropes. But Paez, a 6-1 favorite, struck at will against his one-dimensional foe, and in the third, fourth, and fifth, he scored repeatedly, especially with counter hooks.

In round six, referee Mills Lane penalized Paez for holding and hitting. Immediately after the point deduction, Paez exploded with a left-right, and Gutierrez, 22-3 (17), wobbled. Paez followed with 30 more blows before Lane halted the slaughter at the 2:01 mark.

No one can be sure what 1990 will bring to boxing. But with Jorge Paez fighting every couple of months, it'll sure be fun to watch the year unfold.

DANIEL ZARAGOZA-CHAN YONG PARK

INCHON, SOUTH KOREA—Crafty Mexican lefty Daniel Zaragoza, 121¾, the WBC super bantamweight champion, survived the furious attacks of ex-WBA bantamweight titlist Chan Yong Park, 122, South Korea, dominated the last two rounds with effective retaliations, and barely kept his throne by majority decision after 12 hot and gory rounds. Some 15,000 spectators were in attendance at the Sunin University Gymnasium.

A riot almost developed after Zaragoza's hand was raised, as angry partisan fans threw juice cans and programs to protest the verdict of the three American judges. The scorecards: Chuck Hasset, 116-115, and Chuck Williams, 115-113, both for the champion, and Marty Sammon, 116-116. *The Ring* scored 114-114. Had the 26-year-old challenger won one of the last two rounds, he would have taken the title. Park battered the champion in the eighth, ninth, and 10th rounds, but became tired in the 11th and 12th.

Zaragoza, a fighting champion, registered his fifth defense since he acquired the vacant crown via a TKO over compatriot Carlos Zarate in February 1988.

In the first session, the 32-year-old Zaragoza commenced sharpshooting with fast jabs and one-twos and took the initiative against the still-nervous Park. The Korean had been regarded as a technician, but he turned loose in round two and landed straight rights to the face. Park was also in command in the third, landing incessant combinations, though Zaragoza retaliated late in the round. The Mexican southpaw took the fourth and fifth, trading fast one-twos followed by solid right hooks against the stationary challenger. But in the sixth, blood streamed from under the left ear of the champion. Park dominated the round, as he pinned the Mexican to the ropes and connected with fierce attacks.

Zaragoza took back the seventh, scoring with fast lefts. But in the eighth, Park began an incredibly furious rally, forcing the champion to retreat and absorb much punishment. With his back to the ropes in the ninth and 10th, Zaragoza appeared to lose his composure when he fought back with roundhouse lefts. With more power, the Korean would have sunk the champion right there. But in punching furiously, he probably used too much energy.

Amazingly, Zaragoza began fighting back with still speedy hit-and-run tac-

tics and took the 11th round. In the final round, the veteran Mexican had Park at bay with his determined attack. Park lasted the crisis but lost the round.

Zaragoza is 39-4-1 (16). The loser's log stands at 29-5-2 (12).

Rafael Mendoza, the champion's manager, said, "Park was a much better challenger than I had expected. But I thought Daniel had won by a point, or at worst deserved a draw. It was a good fight."

Thomas Kim, the manager/promoter of Park, spoke of his fighter's failure to follow up in the last two rounds. "It should have been a very good chance for him to dethrone the old and fading champ, Zaragoza," Kim said. "He should have shown his fighting spirit in the last six minutes. I have no complaints to the decision, but have some to my boy's performance."

The referee was England's Larry O'Connell.

(12-3-89)

Joe Koizumi

JEUM HWAN CHOI-NAPA KIATWANCHAI

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—Promoter Soon Chong Suh postponed this WBC strawweight bout five times, unable to secure TV money. Finally, the bout was made as a substitute for a postponed light flyweight title fight between Humberto Gonzalez and Jung Koo Chang.

The victim of the timing was lefty Thai champ Kiatwanchai, who had been in top condition for three months. Then, after one of the five cancellations, he became overweight. The champ was probably overconfident, as he was aware that this bout was regarded as a mismatch, even in Korea. On fight day, Kiatwanchai failed in his first attempt at the weigh-in; he had to shed one pound to make the 105-pound limit. Korean dean Yoo Chang Kim pointed out, "Reducing the weight by one pound for a 105-pound class boy is equivalent to a five-pound reduction for a 210-pounder."

Kiatwanchai, 105, looked sluggish from the first round. Choi, also 105, caught the champ with a crisp right hand and dropped him on the seat of his trunks for a compulsory eight-count.

In the second and third rounds, former light flyweight titlist Choi aggressively attacked the bewildered champ with repeated two-fisted attacks. The Thai was forced to the ropes, but occasionally countered the Korean. Though Choi took the first three rounds, the tide appeared to change in the next round, when the unbeaten Thai scored with a few accurate punches against the wild-punching Choi. In round five, Kiatwanchai sent Choi to the canvas with a well-timed countering left to the face. Choi promptly stood up, as if to show that he had sustained little damage.

The give-and-take proceedings had the crowd on its feet. Then the tide turned again. Choi was in command in the sixth. The seventh saw the challenger explode with a vicious right to the face, flooring the champ. Kiatwanchai struggled to his feet, and the underdog Choi went all out for the kayo. The groggy Thai absorbed much punishment and barely escaped by repeatedly clinching and grabbing. It was such a lopsided round; two judges carded 10-7, and the other 10-8, all in Choi's favor.

In the eighth, the champion started using his footwork to keep a distance from his dangerous opponent. Choi landed a good right, rocking him in the ninth. But Choi also showed his fatigue and was unable to follow up effectively. In the 10th and 11th rounds, Choi pressed the action, but he failed to punch with precision. In the last stanza, neither strawweight looked to have enough power left to stop his opponent. Choi, however, swarmed over the sluggish champ, and dropped him with a wicked left hook to the cheek. The Thai managed to pull himself up, but he was obviously hurt. It was his third visit to the canvas. Choi desperately attacked with a fusillade of punches, and American referee Henry Elespuru saw Kiatwanchai too helpless to fight on. He declared a well-received halt at 1:18 of the 12th and final round.

The upset stoppage raised Choi's record to 20-2 (8). Kiatwanchai, four years Choi's junior at age 22, experienced his first setback, dipping to 10-1-1 (5). The scoring at the time of the stoppage: Juan Jose Guerra (Mexico) 108-99, Adrian Morgan (England) 106-101, and Sid Rubenstein (USA) 107-99, all for the challenger.

The crestfallen loser, whose reign had lasted a shorter-than-expected 364 days, pocketed $80,000. The newly crowned Choi received $8,000.

Jum Hwan Choi was born in Pusan, South Korea, on June 9, 1963. He made his pro debut on March 13, 1983, and scored 12 wins in a row prior to his unsuccessful bid for the IBF junior flyweight crown. He lost to Dodie Boy Penalosa, the lefty Filipino champion, by 15-round decision in Manila on November 16, 1984. Penalosa relinquished the IBF throne to move up to the flyweight class, and Choi gained the vacant IBF title in the 108-pound division by winning a 15-round decision over compatriot and then-OPBF champ Cho Woon Park in Pusan on December 7, 1986.

The short but sturdy Korean defended his IBF crown thrice, beating Tacy Macalos (by a close decision), Toshihiko Matsuda (by an easy fourth-

Strawweight champion Jeum Hwan Choi

round TKO), and Indonesian Azadin Anhar (by a quick third-round stoppage), all in 1987. In 1988, the Korean Boxing Commission, as well as Korean TV, started a policy that they would not allow any IBF title bouts to be held in Korea. As a result, Choi was forced to fight abroad. He lost his title to Macalos via a 12-round decision in November 1988.

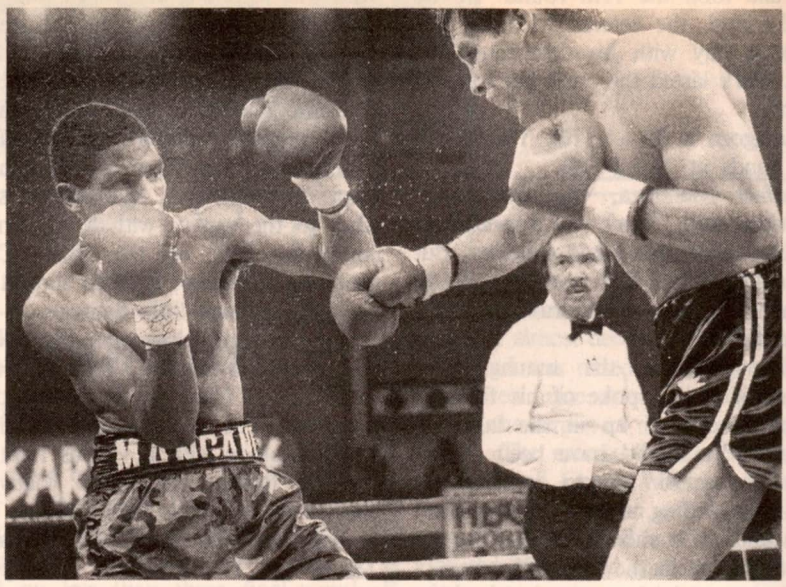
In the semifinal 10, unbeaten prospect Kap Chul Choi, the KBC's number three-ranked flyweight, 113, pinned Filipino Jun Altarejos, 112¾, in a corner and dug a vicious left hook to the stomach, flattening him in agony for the count at 2:50 of the second round. The clearcut kayo upped Kap Chul's log to 14-0 (6). Altarejos, a game swinger, fell to 21-5-4 (4).

Kap Chul Shin, 110¼, outpointed Chong Kwon Park, 112½, in eight.

The card was promoted by Ariran Promotions and telecast nationally by MBC.

(11-12-89)

Joe Koizumi



Chavez guns for Fuentes

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ-SAMMY FUENTES

LAS VEGAS—Whatever happens in their long-awaited showdown next month, Julio Cesar Chavez can never say he wasn't fully prepared to meet Meldrick Taylor to unify two-thirds of the 140-pound world championship at the Las Vegas Hilton.

The undefeated WBC super lightweight champion from Culiacan, Mexico, sharpened his skills in this defense against rock-ribbed Sammy Fuentes, Puerto Rico, in a Don King promotion at the Caesars Palace Sports Pavilion.

Chavez, 27, needed 10 of the scheduled 12 rounds to dispose of the gutty challenger. And he didn't finish the job until Dr. Flip Homansky examined Fuentes' closed right eye and told referee Carlos Padilla to call it off before the bell for round 11.

Taylor, the unbeaten IBF junior welterweight champion, watched the action on HBO and declared, "I was very impressed with what I saw. Everything about Chavez was accurate and consistent. But I will look to offset him. I have the potential and skill to beat Chavez with hand speed and foot speed."

Judges Dave Moretti, Dalby Shirley, and Bill Graham had the bout even through four rounds (38-38), but radar double-hooks to the body and jarring uppercuts and jabs had Chavez scoring a virtual shutout through the final six rounds. Shirley was the only judge to give Fuentes a round, the eighth.

When the end came, Moretti had it 98-91, Shirley voted 97-93, and Graham scored 98-90 for the brilliant champion, who lifted his amazing record to 67-0 (54). Fuentes, the WBC's number-five challenger, fell to 21-7-1 (17). Both fighters weighed 139¾. Caesars Olympiad sports book had Chavez a 12-1 betting choice.

There were no knockdowns, and every time Chavez appeared to rock Fuentes with a three-punch combination—a wicked left to the head and body and a straight right—the rugged challenger was back inside to counter effectively.

Fuentes, who was on a roll of six straight wins, made it clear that he wouldn't lose quietly. He offered some solid infighting to win the third and fourth rounds. Still, the tenacious champion always seemed to be right in front of Fuentes and ready to deliver vicious punishment to the rib cage.

It wasn't certain whether it was a punch or a thumb that closed Fuentes' right eye in the 10th, but there was no postfight discussion on that issue. The handsome Chavez was unmarked, save a small knot above his right cheekbone.

Chavez reportedly earned $500,000 for making his first defense of the WBC 140-pound crown. Fuentes' purse was reported at $30,000. If true, King should lay a decent bonus on this courageous gladiator.

Chavez showed his respect for Fuentes' bid.

"I knew going in it was going to be a hard fight," he said. "I should have been stronger, but Fuentes didn't surprise me, because I knew he was a good fighter. I haven't been long at this weight. That's why I'm going to defend again December 16 against Angel Hernandez in Mexico City. (Chavez posted a third-round kayo over Hernandez.) I'll show you that I'm great."

Fuentes was equally gracious in defeat.

"My trainer told me to fight inside, but I was getting hurt there, so later I went outside," he said. "I thought Chavez would tire, but he didn't and he was still hurting me."

For Troy Wortham, half of the semifinal bout, it couldn't have been much worse if Julian Jackson had been able to fight.

Unfortunately, Jackson, the WBA junior middleweight champion, was unable to defend against Wortham because of surgery to repair a detached retina.

What was originally scheduled as a 12-round title bout was reset as a 10-rounder, with Argentina's Julio Cesar Vasquez making his American debut as a replacement for Jackson.

The 23-year-old Vasquez, a southpaw, was virtually unknown in North America. But that all changed after six rounds.

Vasquez is a native of Santa Fe, Argentina, which produced legendary middleweight champion Carlos Mon-

zon. The 5'9" substitute looked like the second coming of Monzon, as he nearly decapitated Wortham in scoring a smashing TKO at 2:41 of the sixth round.

Vasquez, ranked third by the WBC and fourth by the WBA, raised his record to 21-0 (14).

The 25-year-old Wortham, Hartford, Connecticut, never got untracked against the swarming Vasquez, who threw punches from all directions and angles.

Wortham is 30-1 (17).

In a eight-round heavyweight bout, Rodolfo Marin, 239, San Juan, Puerto Rico, used booming right hands to drop Richard Cade, 260, Wichita, Kansas, in the first and second rounds en route to TKO at 1:32 of the second.

Marin improved to 14-0, while Cade dropped to 9-7.

Fernando Beltran, 130, Culiacan, Mexico, hammered Joaquin Acuna, 136, McAllen, Texas, who was unable to answer the bell for round four. It was scheduled for eight rounds.

In a scheduled six-rounder, Luis Rolon, 119, San Juan, dropped Tommy Ruiz, 118, San Diego, with a straight right and finished him at 1:49 of the first round for a kayo victory. Rolon moved to 3-0, while Ruiz dipped to 2-2.

Eduardo Mendoza, 135, Culiacan, dropped Franco Venture, 134, San Diego, in the second round and went on to a unanimous four-round decision. Mendoza is 6-1, while Ventura fell to 2-2.

Glen Modicue, 156, Lafayette, Louisiana, swarmed all over Sergio Mondragon, 148, San Diego, and scored a TKO at 37 seconds of the first round. Modicue is 7-0, while Mondragon dipped to 1-2.

(ll-l8-89)

Jack Welsh

HUMBERTO GONZALEZ-JUNG KOO CHANG

TAEGU, SOUTH KOREA—For the Koreans, it was a very cold and sad night. Reportedly about 80 percent of the Korean population watched television to see "Korean Hawk" Jung Koo Chang try to regain the title he had vacated due to personal problems.

It was a light flyweight superfight. Chang, the ex-champ, attempted to regain the throne from Gonzalez, the young king. Chang, 26, had compiled excellent credentials, with a record of 37-1 (16) and 15 defenses, while Gonzalez, 22, remained unbeaten at 24-0 (20).

Chang met failure. The former titlist isn't what he used to be, and he lost a unanimous 12-round decision. The fight was a monotonous and dull affair. It was also a strange contest. If you had watched it from a third-level seat at the Taegu Indoor Gymnasium, you might have believed that Chang had scored a victory. Chang looked to be the aggressor all the way, pinning the champion to the ropes with his familiar infighting. The officials, however, completely neglected Chang's ineffective aggressiveness and noted Gonzalez' accurate counterpunching.

The scorecards illustrated the champion's one-sided victory: Terry Smith (California), 119-109, Tommy Kaczmarek (New Jersey), 118-110, and Richard Murry (New Jersey), 118-111, all the Gonzalez. *The Ring* saw it 116-112 for the champion.

In round one, Chang, 108, fired lead straight rights against the switch-hitting champion, who fought throughout the fight as a southpaw. Gonzalez, 107¾, cautiously felt out Chang and remained defensive. In round three, Chang forced Gonzalez to the ropes, but the Mexican cleverly clinched.

In the fifth, the Mexican champion assumed control, as he scored with strong southpaw rights to the Korean's face. Chang kept coming forward, only to absorb the champion's short blows. In the sixth, they struggled inside as if they were sumo wrestlers, and referee Carlos Padilla frequently had to separate them. In the seventh, the Hawk used his footwork and fought from long range, but in the eighth and ninth, the challenger again pinned Gonzalez to the ropes. Chang, however, rarely landed, and absorbed several left and right uppercuts. Given Chang's sly tactics, it had to be wondered whether he and his cornermen thought they were ahead on points.

The unbeaten champion started the 10th with a straight left, but he couldn't follow up due to Chang's ducking and relentless approaches. In the 11th, Gonzalez showed quick side-to-side movement. Chang attempted to crowd him, but the champion refused to allow infighting. The face of the Korean swelled, and Gonzalez took the last round convincingly.

Ho Yun Chun, Chang's manager, analyzed his fighter's defeat.

"I had advised Chang to move up to the flyweight class when he decided to make a comeback," he said. "Chang said he had the confidence to make the weight and beat Gonzalez. Chang, I believe, realizes he can't fight in the 108-pound class any longer. He will have a crack at the WBC flyweight throne now held by Sot Chitalada, who Chang beat in 1984."

In the semifinal, Kyung Duk Ahn, the WBC's top-rated super lightweight contender, 141¼, didn't look sharp or impressive, as he failed to stop Filipino footworker Boy Ligas, 140, in taking a one-sided 10-round decision. Ahn reportedly injured his right hand during the bout. His performance was jeered. Ahn is 27-1 (13). Ligas dropped to 20-8-4 (6).

Jae Hee Lee, 117¾, whipped Yong Nam Koh, the Korean Commission's top contender, 117¼, and won a unanimous decision to retain the national bantamweight title over 10 rounds. Lee is 11-2-2 (2). Koh fell to 10-1 (6).

Kang Suk Lee, 130, became the new Korean junior lightweight champion by defeating Byung Ki Chung, 130, in a 10-rounder. Lee is 3-0 after a brilliant amateur career. Chung is 6-2 (3).

The attendance was an estimated 15,000.

(12-9-89)

Joe Koizumi

MARK BRELAND-FUJIO OZAKI

Breland wins in Tokyo

TOKYO—Elongated Mark Breland, 146¼, proved too fast and ferocious for Japanese challenger Fujio Ozaki, the top contender, 146¾. Breland opened a big gash under Ozaki's right

eyebrow in the third and halted him at 35 seconds of the fourth round of a scheduled 12.

It was Breland's third defense since he regained the WBA title by polishing off Korean Seung Soon Lee in the first round last February. In February 1988, Ozaki, 28, had shown durability in losing a 12-round decision to Marlon Starling in his first quest for the WBA throne.

The 25-year-old Breland displayed an impressive opening attack, using stinging lefts and smashing overhand rights against the shorter challenger. In round one, the first punch thrown by Breland was his best shot of this bout. It rocked and bewildered the bearded challenger. The 6'2½" champ followed up and unleashed solid rights to the temple and face of his nervous opponent.

Ozaki, who boasted of his iron jaw, lasted the opening round, but obviously absorbed too much punishment to execute his fight plan. The second round followed the same pattern as the first. Taller by some six inches, Breland scored with long, snappy jabs and right crosses. Ozaki attempted to counter, but it was another one-sided round.

The third stanza saw Ozaki, 25-6 (15), begin retaliating with potentially big rights. But Breland easily eluded them and penetrated Ozaki's guard with fast, straight blows. When the Japanese was boring in, the New Yorker cleverly used his long arms to grab him and stop his attack.

In the closing seconds of the third, Breland landed a sharp left that produced a cut on Ozaki's right eyelid. The blood streamed so profusely that Panamanian referee Julio Cesar Alvarado had the ring physician examine Ozaki. The bout continued, and the challenger was seemingly saved by the bell. But in the next session, Breland reopened the wound with whiplash lefts. This time, the doctor advised Alvarado to halt the bout. Breland's hand was raised, and Ozaki returned to his corner with his face in crimson.

The three officials—Uriel Aguilera (Colombia), Fernando Viso (Venezuela), and Marco Antonio Rodrigues (Mexico)—had the champion leading on points, 30-27.

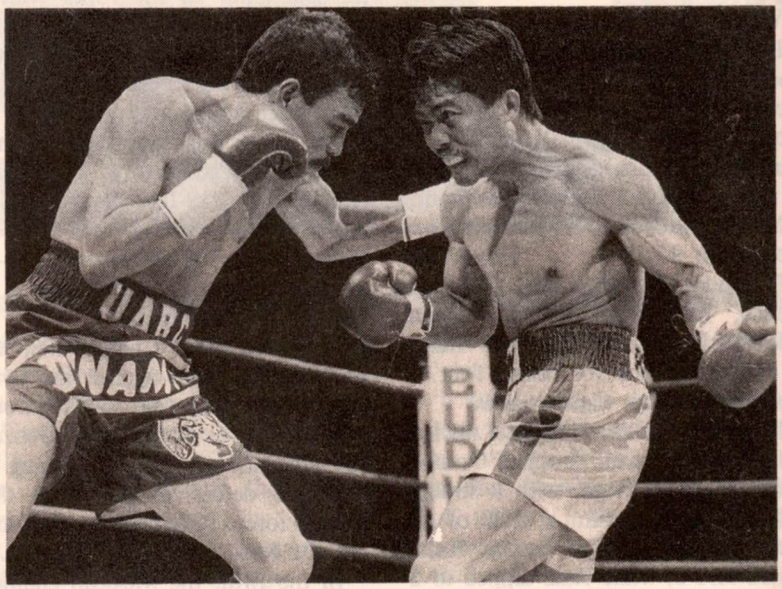
"I know Ozaki is a tough guy," said Breland, 26-1-1 (19). "It was unlucky for him to lose by such a cut. But I was in good shape, and would have been a winner without his bleeding. My jab was so effective that Ozaki couldn't enter my range."

Breland indicated a desire to next face either Julio Cesar Chavez or Sugar Ray Leonard.

The attendance was 3,000.
(12-10-89)

Joe Koizumi

JESUS SALUD-JUAN JOSE ESTRADA



Salud (right) fires his "Hawaiian Punch"

INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA—Jesus Salud is the new WBA junior featherweight champion following the ninth-round disqualification over former champion Juan Jose "Dynamita" Estrada for repeated low blows. The title bout was held before 6,166 fans at the Great Western Forum.

Salud, 121¾, was fortunate to catch Estrada on an off-night. The fight, which had been postponed twice because of training injuries to Estrada, started slowly, with the fighters sizing each other up. In the closing seconds of round two, however, Salud caught Estrada with a humdinger of a punch that had the champion walking back to his corner like a skid row drunk. Salud controlled the bout after that, as he repeatedly caught his opponent with solid left-right combinations that had the crowd screaming.

Estrada tried to stay competitive by utilizing his excellent left jab, but Salud kept pressuring him and in the sixth, tagged the Mexican champion with a left-right that had him down for a nine-count.

Estrada got further behind when he lost points for blatant low blows in the sixth and seventh rounds. The fouls seemed to further motivate the challenger. In the ninth round, referee Larry Rozadilla finally stopped the fight after yet another Estrada low blow.

Salud improved to 32-3, while Estrada, 122, dropped to 36-8. Entering the bout, Estrada had won six straight bouts after being disqualified in November 1987 against Albert Davila for, you guessed it, low blows. Salud, who was born in Sinait Ilocosur, the Philippines, had done most of his fighting in Hawaii before moving to San Diego to further his career. The move has paid off for the likeable champion, who has become a crowd favorite at the Forum. The new champion will next face another Mexican, Tijuana's Luis Mendoza.

In the main support bout, Edgar Castro was also disqualified after repeated low blows, giving 18-year-old Manuel Medina the vacant WBA Intercontinental junior lightweight title. Referee Burton Gilliam decided to pull the plug after Castro had thrown his fourth low blow in the seventh round. Medina had been on the canvas three times, twice from low blows, and once in the third from a Castro left hook. Despite that, Medina was ahead on points, and improved his record to 33-3. Castro fell to 26-6-1, and looks on the downside.

Super middleweight Vince Durham outpointed Fred Thomas over five rounds.

Lightweight Jaime Castro outpointed Eddie Alvarado over four rounds.

The promoter was Jerry Buss, Forum Boxing Inc. The matchmaker was Antonio Curtis.
(12-11-89)

Michael Hepworth

MELDRICK TAYLOR-ROCKY BALBOA

PHILADELPHIA—Billed as "The Homecoming," the bout was a mere ceremony marking the return of prodigal Meldrick Taylor. In a non-title tuneup for the impending Julio Cesar Chavez blockbuster of March 17, IBF junior welterweight king Taylor exhibited a showman's sense of timing at the Pennsylvania Hall Civic Center.

"This will be the kind of fight where people show up in their Sunday clothes," observed trainer Georgie Benton. Surprisingly, in a hard-nosed sports town that traditionally boos Santa Claus and once trashed Ronald McDonald at a charity football game, the fans went for it. The crowd all but filled the Hall. And no one seemed to mind that there was hardly a good fight on the show. Everyone was having too good a time to notice.

Taylor's evening wasn't exactly made easy by design, either. His original foe was to be Philadelphia darkhorse Rodney Moore, who, as local tradition dictates, would have provided a life-and-death fight. A cut in his last fight scratched Moore, and he was replaced by the competent Victorio Belcher. But with Belcher jailed in Indianapolis for failure to pay child support, matchmaker Russell Peltz was left with nothing to reach for. In a master stroke, he came up with Jaime "Rocky" Balboa.

"We wanted him for the name," Peltz admitted of the Mexican clubfighter. "Even if people joke about it, it's an easy sell in this town."

It was also an easy fight. Rather than trying to survive, the compliant Balboa, 139, San Antonio, came in winging, just enough to allow Taylor, 142, to look good. Taylor toyed with him in the first round of a scheduled 10, then had him nearly out with an electrifying mix of punches in the second. "We knew he would take Balboa out," said cornerman Lou Duva, but we wanted him to do it within the plan. We wanted him to be systematic about it."

Dutifully, Taylor eased off for the next couple rounds. He was painting a picture, with Balboa as the canvas, and the crowd was aware and appreciative.

In the fifth, it was time to end the lesson, which Taylor did decisively. Moving to the inside and planting his feet, Taylor let Balboa reach him, just enough to bring the action to a boil. Lashing back with a left hook counter, he sent Rocky wobbling to the ropes, where a followup hook swiveled his neck and sent his mouthpiece rocketing. Referee Frank Cappuccino quickly jumped in, stopping it at 1:59. As a fitting close to the storybook event, the loser didn't even protest.

"I guess I could say the fight was stopped too soon, but that isn't exactly true," he admitted. "Meldrick was hitting me with some really solid shots."

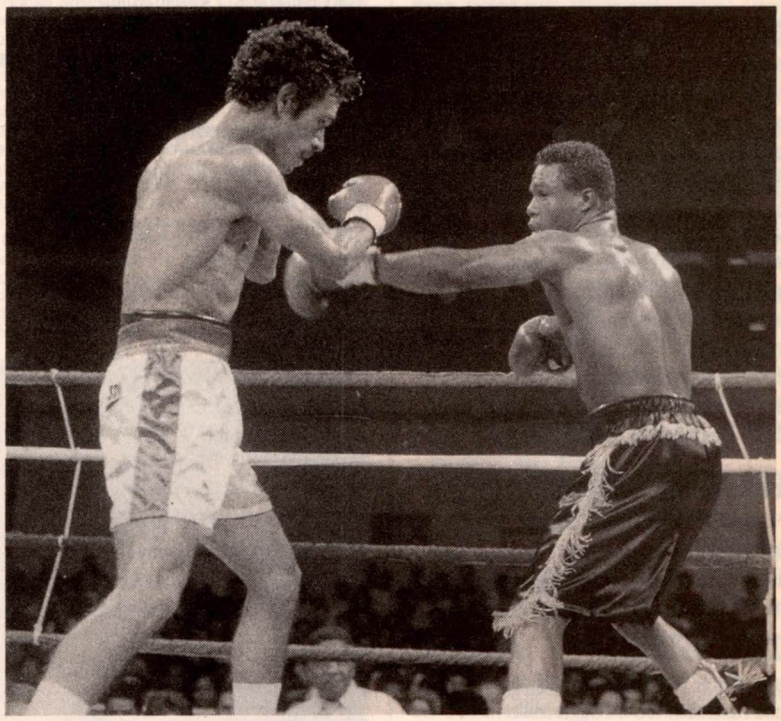
The evening wasn't all roses for Peltz, as Ismael Negron, 160, Newark, upset one of his fighters, Tony Thornton, 164, Glassboro, New Jersey, on a TKO after six rounds of a scheduled 10. A confident Thornton was surprised onto the seat of his trunks by a right counter off the ropes to close the first. Still, it look like only an accidental setback, as Thornton thrashed Negron close to a stoppage in the second. But somewhere in that shellacking, the bout imperceptibly turned. The durable Negron, back after a layoff, and with a new manager (Mike Guadagno), took everything Thornton gave, including some of his confidence in his power. Thornton remained in control, but settled down noticeably. Negron continued to hang around, cutting Thornton's left eye in the fourth.

"I should have thrown caution to the wind and just gone after him," admitted Thornton after it was too late. With the eye virtually closed, the doctor denied even the ministrations of vaunted cutman Eddie Aliano and stopped the bout after the sixth. The referee was Tommy Reid.

While the success of the card was supposed to determine the future of big fights here, Peltz made a public relations blunder by kowtowing to TV at the expense of paying fans. Those who arrived at the advertised starting time were incensed to find they'd missed two favorites, Robert Hines and Myron Taylor, so that Sports-Channel America's could be accommodated. In an all-lefty pairing, Hines, 160, North Philadelphia, stopped Saleem Muhammad, 163, Miami, at 1:37 of the second round, scheduled for 10.

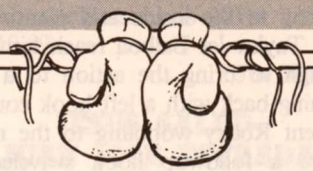
In the opener, Myron Taylor, 126, North Philadelphia, methodically worked the body of Jeff Hanna, 129, Terre Haute, Indiana, for a TKO at 2:39 of the third round, scheduled 10.
(11-20-89)

J.R. Jowett □



Taylor speeds past Rocky Balboa

WORLDWIDE RESULTS



HEAVYWEIGHTS

Francesco Damiani KO 2 Daniel Netto
Gary Mason W 10 Mark Wills
Tony Tubbs W 12 Orlin Norris
Tony Tucker KO 3 Dino Homsey
Tyrell Biggs KO 5 Bobby Crabtree
Bonecrusher Smith KO 7 Mike Rouse
Seamus McDonagh W 10 Michael Greer
Derek Williams KO 1 Hughroy Currie
Ray Mercer W 8 Ossie Ocasio
Riddick Bowe KO 2 Charlie Woolard
Riddick Bowe KO 3 Art Card

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Robert Daniels W 12 Dwight Muhammad Qawi
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Boone Pultz W 12 Magne Havnaa
Jose Flores Burlon KO 7 Emanuel Camargo
Derek Angol W 12 Apollo Sweet

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Frankie Swindell KO 1 Paris Johnson
Greg Everett KO 1 Ron Martin
Mike Peak KO 3 Carlton Brown
Tony Harrison KO 2 Alex Blanchard
Andrew Maynard W 8 Mike DeVito
Anthony Hembrick W 6 Matthew Brooks
Anthony Hembrick KO 1 Ken Bentley

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Ray Leonard W 12 Roberto Duran
(Retains WBC Title)
Christophe Tiozzo KO 7 Carlos Antunes
Frank Winterstein KO 10 Frankie Minton

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Dennis Milton W 10 Michael Olajide
Sumbu Kalambay KO 1 Reggie Miller
Matthew Hilton D 10 Fermin Chirino
Steve Collins KO 9 Roberto Rosiles
Nigel Benn KO 1 Jose Quinones
Merqui Sosa KO 4 Miguel Antonio Mosna
Reggie Johnson KO 1 Victor Fernandez
Ismael Negron KO 6 Tony Thornton
Hugo Corti W 12 Edip Secovic
David Collet W 10 Knox Brown
John Scully W 10 Billy Bridges

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Robert Hines KO 2 Saleem Muhammad
Terry Norris W 12 Tony Montgomery
Rene Jacquot W 10 Lorenzo Garcia
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 6 Troy Wortham
Alberto Lopez W 12 Raymundo Torres

WELTERWEIGHTS

Mark Breland KO 4 Fujio Ozaki
(Retains WBA Title)
Buddy McGirt W 10 Rafael Williams
Aaron Davis KO 6 Russell Mitchell
Glenwood Brown KO 1 Arturo Padilla
Kirkland Laing KO 5 George Collins
Donovan Boucher W 12 Gary Jacobs
Tony Baltazar KO 4 Juan Muniz
Tommy Ayers KO 2 Anthony Armstrong
Antoine Fernandez KO 4 Markus Underdruss
Jose Bermudez KO 3 Frankie Natal

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 10 Sammy Fuentes
(Retains WBC Title)
Julio Cesar Chavez KO 3 Alberto Cortes
(Retains WBC Title)
Meldrick Taylor KO 5 Rocky Balboa
(Non-Title Bout)
Vinny Pazienza KO 5 Eddie Van Kirk
Kyung Duk Ahn W 10 Boy Ligos
Angel Hernandez KO 3 Mario Coronado
Ras-I Aluja Bramble W Disq. 6 Kenny Vice
Terrence Alli KO 7 Juan Soberanes
Pat Barrett KO 6 Joey Ferrell
Alex Dickson D 12 Tim Burgess
Harold Brazier KO 6 Bobby Brown
Tim Brooks KO 10 Andres Sandoval
Owen McGeachy D 10 Vinny Burgese
Todd Foster KO 2 Ed Malone

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Pernell Whitaker KO 3 Martin Galvan
(Non-Title Bout)
Poli Diaz W 12 Steve Boyle
Anthony Jones W 10 Ramon Zavala
William Rojas KO 10 Tunde Foster
Abram Gumede W 12 Aladdin Stevens
Kent Hardee KO 10 David Rivello
Johnny de la Rosa W 10 Idabeth Rojas
Andres Sandoval KO 4 Momong Manaay

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Brian Mitchell W 10 Felipe Orozco
(Non-Title Bout)
Jeff Fenech W 12 Mario Martinez
Kamel Bou-Ali KO 8 Antonio Rivera
Gabriel Ruelas KO 2 Jaiver Macias
Myron Taylor KO 3 Jeff Hanna

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jorge Paez KO 6 Lupe Gutierrez
(Retains IBF Title)
Jorge Paez W 4 Fernando Segura
(Non-Title Bout)
Hector Lizarraga KO 7 Paquito Openo
Rafael Ruelas KO 1 Ricardo Flores
Job Walters W 10 Bernardo Pinango

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Daniel Zaragoza W 12 Chan Yong Park
(Retains WBC Title)
Jesus Salud W Disq. 9 Juan Jose Estrada
(Wins WBA Title)
Jesus Salud W 10 Hector Diaz
Valerio Nati W Disq. 4 Kenny Mitchell
Jemal Hinton KO 11 Robert Shannon
Jesse Benavides KO 5 Gary Spencer
Pedro de la Cruz KO 12 Jorge Loya

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Luisito Espinosa KO 3 Juan Mendoza
(Non-Title Bout)
Gerardo Martinez W 10 Edel Geronimo
Duke McKenzie W 8 Memo Flores
Sung Kil Moon KO 5 Romeo Opriasa

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Thanomsak Sithbaobay W 10 Ric Bajelot

FLYWEIGHTS

Eyup Can W 12 Giampero Pinna
Leopard Tamakuma KO 3 Rex Lapiso
Richard Clarke W 10 Luis Chanis
Yul Woo Lee W 10 Yong Kang Kim

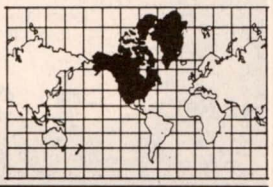
LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS

Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Jung Koo Chang
(Retains WBC Title)

STRAWWEIGHTS

Ricardo Lopez KO 12 Rey Hernandez

The RING AROUND THE WORLD



NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

RESEDA—At the Reseda Country Club, the fighting Ruelas brothers headlined the final show of the year for the Ten Goose Boxing Club, with both registering impressive knockouts. **Gabriel Ruelas**, 127½, Arleta, knocked out **Javier Macias**, 123½, Sun Valley, in the second round when ringside physician Robert Karns ordered the one-sided fight stopped at the 1:52 mark. Ruelas dominated the first round against the retreating Macias, catching him with powerful left-right combinations to the head. Macias was floored early in the second round, and was wrestled down to the canvas as soon as he got up. The stoppage came soon after, with Ruelas improving to 18-0, and Macias dropping to 12-5.

Rafael Ruelas, 124¾, Arleta, disposed of **Ricardo Flores**, 123, San Diego, in just 2:49 of the first round. After rocking Flores almost immediately with left hooks and uppercuts, Ruelas tagged his foe with a wicked left hook that felled him. Flores didn't beat the count. He dropped to 18-7. The winner remains unbeaten at 12-0, and at this stage of his career could be a better prospect than brother Gabriel. Manager Dan Goossen plans to move the brothers to the Great Western Forum in the New Year, and seek possible NABF or USBA title fights.

Heavyweight Rocky Popeli, 220, Burbank, took no time to measure up Tyrone Armstrong, 225, Las Vegas, and knock him out with a left hook after 2:22 of the first round. The local hero improved to 7-1, all by kayo, while Armstrong fell to 4-3.

Vincente Lopez, 145, Guyamas, Mexico, also won in the first round, stopping William Hernandez, Sacramento. Lopez quickly had Hernandez down, and referee Rudy Jordan subsequently stoppped the fight on a cut eye. Lopez is 10-1, with Hernandez dropping to 8-2-1.

Ben Contreras, 133½, Phoenix, proved too strong for plucky Miguel Reyes, 133¼, Tijuana, easily winning a unanimous decision over four fast-paced rounds. The winner goes to 4-1, with Reyes at 5-2.

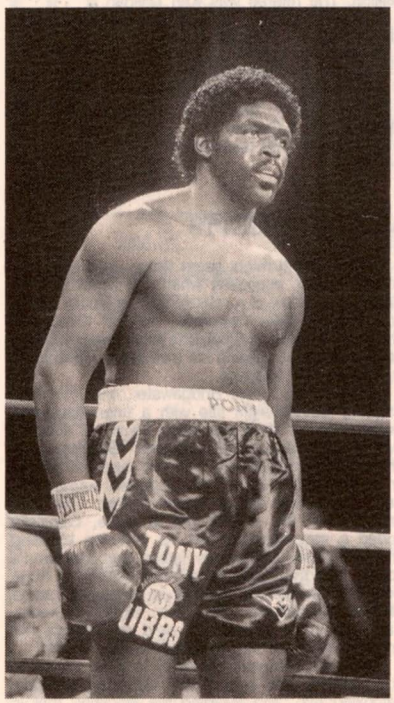
In a non-descript four-rounder, Roberto Gonzalez, 135, Tijuana, won a split decision over crowd-pleasing Francisco Pascasio, 134½, Phoenix. The winner is 8-2, with Pascasio falling to 8-5.

SANTA MONICA—At the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, **Tony Tubbs**, 233, Santa Monica, won the NABF heavyweight title from champion **Orlin Norris**, 209, Campo, via unanimous 12-round decision. The scoring of 116-114, 114-113, and 116-112 failed to reflect how close the bout really was, with Norris always the aggressor throughout the fight. Tubbs used his rapier-like jab to good effect in the early rounds, and in the fifth, he decided to take charge with some heavy blows. But Norris retaliated with a relentless body attack.

The middle rounds saw both fighters taking breathers, but in the 10th, Tubbs took control again. He was, however, unable to sustain the pressure, despite the urging of manager Harold Smith (yes, *that* Harold Smith) in his corner. Tubbs had his best round in the 11th, connecting with powerful combinations that had the tiring Norris covering up. Four months in the gym and a 35-pound weight loss clearly benefited the former WBA champion, who improved to 29-2. Norris dropped to 22-2. The referee was Dr. James Jen-Kin.

Terry Norris, 154, San Diego, retained the NABF super welterweight title over a game but outclassed Tony Montgomery, 154, Detroit. Norris, 25-3, took control early in the second round, easily finding his target in the fast-paced bout. Norris scored a knockdown when he caught Montgomery off balance in the third, but the challenger quickly rose. In that same round, Montgomery lost a point for biting.

Norris kept a little busier than Montgomery in the middle rounds, using his superior foot work and hand speed. Montgomery kept chasing without connecting. By the 11th, Montgomery had become increasingly frustrated, and in the 12th, that frustration turned to anger following a low blow by Norris. Montgomery retaliated with similar tactics, and the bout ended with both fighters seemingly as fresh as when they began. Scoring was 117-107, 118-106, and 117-106. Montgomery dropped to 22-3. The referee was Vince Delgado.



Tony Tubbs

Undefeated Anthony Hembrick, 175, Hollywood, showboated to his ninth pro victory over popular Matthew Brooks, 178, Houston. Hembrick pitched a near-shutout in the six-rounder, and he had Brooks in trouble in the third, when the loser was issued a standing eight-count. The glassy-eyed Brooks held on to survive, rallying back strongly in the fourth. The 1,000-plus crowd was quick to show its displeasure with Hembrick, who was impressive in flashes, but was unable to finish off his opponent. The scoring was 60-54, 60-54, and 59-55. Brooks dropped to 10-2.

Dino Garza, 140, won a split decision over Ricardo Basila, 140, and improved to 9-3. Basila fell to 1-1. The five-round war had the fans out of their seats, and the explosive Garza, who had won all of his previous fights by knockout, had to be content with the split decision. The scoring was 48-47, 48-47, and 46-49.

Sal Lopez, 130, Oxnard, won a unanimous decision over Joe Castro, 130, Marino Valley, and improved to 2-0. Castro dropped to 2-1.

Leroy Irvin, an all-star defensive back with the Los Angeles Rams, promoted the show.
(11-21-89)

Michael Hepworth

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—In a minor upset, world-rated **Craig Bodzianowski**, 193, dropped a unanimous 10-round decision to **James Warring**, Miami. Bodzianowski, a one-legged fighter who boxes with a prosthesis, looked rusty. He dropped to 23-3-1. Warring, 194, improved to 10-1.

In a Chicago civil war, light heavyweight Fred Reed was TKO'd 16 seconds into the fourth round of a six-rounder by Tony LaRosa. LaRosa improved to 9-1. Reed announced his retirement after the fight.

Phil Scott wasn't whale hunting, but when he looked at a 282-pound substitute named Al Hill, he probably went for his harpoon. That kind of weapon wasn't necessary, as Scott, 197, put the Cincinatti fighter on ice at 1:52 of the first round of a scheduled six-rounder.

In an all-action brawl, Jesse Torres, 131, took a unanimous six-round decision over Jorge Baeza, 134. Torres is 8-1-2, while Baeza fell to 7-2.

In a super middleweight bout, William McDonald, 166, won a unanimous six-round nod over Ron Lewis, 168, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Undefeated Rodney Wilson, 135, raised his record to 7-0-1 with a six-round points win over Cincinatti's Reginald Strickland, 136.

Anthony Ivory used a big right hand to the head and TKO'd J.C. Camell Jr. at 2:58 of the third round.

Promoter: Sam Frontera
Matchmaker: Jack Cowan
Site: The Amphitheatre
Referees: Stanley Berg, Brian O'Shea, Pete Podgorski
Judges: Jim LeBell, Gino Rodriguez, Jerry Jakubco, Tim Adams
Attendence: 500
(11-10-89)

INDIANA

SOUTH BEND—Before a nice crowd of 740 at the Century Center, hometown hero and nice guy **Harold Brazier** started his comeback after losing the NABF title to Ras-I Bramble a few months ago. The 34-year-old Brazier, 143, faced **Bobby Brown**, 147, Memphis. Three opponents pulled out before Brown was secured for this scheduled 10-rounder. Brazier started slowly but with a good defense and enough offense to win the first four uneventful rounds.

In the fifth stanza, Brazier picked up the pace and dropped Brown twice with crisp punches. In round six, Braizer decided to finish his foe, flooring Brown early in the round, and then flattening Brown for the TKO at the 2:00 mark.

Norman "Psycho" Bates, 137, Elkhart, pounded out an eight-round unanimous decision over Gerald Shelton, 135, Gary. The talented Bates easily dominated the contest. Shelton showed a big heart in lasting the duration. All three judges scored 80-72.

Brian Young, 149, Elkhart, TKO'd Gilbert Williams, 145, Oklahoma City, at 2:12 of the opening round.

Andy Penelli, 203, South Bend, kayoed Mike Smith, 190, Oklahoma City, in the initial round. The time was 2:19.

In a good battle, Mike Arrington, 140, South Bend, won a four-round nod over Kevin Sedam, 143, Indianapolis.

Marty Jakubowski, 138, Whiting, showboated to a five-round unanimous decision over Jim Kazmarek, 140, South Bend.

Promoter: Fred Berns
Matchmaker: Pete Susens
Referees: Sean Curtain, Pete Podgorski
Judges: Fred Jones, Don Leek, Gary Merritt
(11-30-89)

INDIANAPOLIS—In a fast-paced and brutal 10-round main event at the Sherwood Club, **Craig Houk**, 150, Greensburg, won a unanimous decision over tough **Rocky Vires**, 153, Tulsa, Oklahoma. The scores were 97-90, 96-90, and 99-90.

There were four flash knockdowns in the contest. Houk was dropped in rounds four and six. Vires, a southpaw, tasted the canvas in the eighth and 10th. Houk used his advantages in hand and foot speed to win most of the rounds. At the end of the bout, the faces of both warriors showed the effects of 30 minutes of war.

Shannon Lang, 164, Lafayette, showed some boxing skills in winning a four-round decision over Jesse Abrams, 168, Des Moines, Iowa.

In a wild brawl, oft-beaten Randy Reedy, 136, Terre Haute, won a four-round split decision over Kevin Sedam, 140, Indianapolis.

In his pro debut, Reuben Ruiz, 158, Indianapolis, floored Randy Handshoe, 155, Kendallville, twice en route to a four-round decision win.

Rad Brewer, 258, Frankfort, proved to be too strong and big for veteran Jimmy Baker, 197, Scottsburg. Brewer took an easy four-round decision.

Promoter: Fred Berns
Matchmaker: Pete Susens
Referees: Bill Vaughn, George DeFabis
Judges: Fred Jones, John Caldwell, Gary Merritt
Attendance: 500 (estimated)
(11-28-89)

Gary L. Merritt

IOWA

CARTER LAKE—In the main event, light heavyweight **Kenny Schaefer**, Ralston, outpointed tough **Johnny Cox**, Rockford, Illinois, over eight rounds. Cox seemed ready to fall on several occasions, but found the strength to hang in. He managed to hear the final bell. Schaefer, the busier fighter, deserved the verdict. The winner is 11-0.

In a battle of super middleweights, up-and-coming Ray Domange, 165, Omaha, edged cagey veteran Jesse Abrams, 171, Omaha, in a four-rounder. Despite his aggressive style, Domage couldn't score the kayo.

Another pair of Omaha fighters, Paul Garner and Jim Zavalo, had a bizzare encounter. A double-disqualification resulted when both light heavyweights refused to stop fighting along the ropes. Garner is a strong fighter with potential, but he is also the owner of a temper.

Mike Juarez, 128, Omaha, edged Conrad Davis, Indianapolis, via unanimous four-round decision. It was a good bout.

Two old pros were in action as Nicky Miller, 163, Omaha, outpointed Wayne Grant, 160, Omaha, over four rounds. Grant was decked in the third and was on the verge of being kayoed on several occasions. But the aging warhorse kept coming back. These two fighters never fail to give the crowd a good fight.

Felix "The Cat" DuBray, a popular Omaha welterweight, pounded out a six-round decision over a game Ray Menafee, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Promoter: Dan Murphy
Matchmakers: Mouse Strauss, Pete Susens
Referee: Ben Belmont
Judges: Dick McGinnis, Bill Murphy, Bruce Eagle
Physician: Dr. Bill Weeks
Timekeeper: Ken Parker
Attendance: 850
(12-5-89)

Bob Ruiz

MARYLAND

GLEN BURNIE—At La Fontaine Bleu, **Chuck "Pit Bull" Sturm** has been headlining the dinner/boxing cards for more than two years. And this night, as in past nights, he did not disappoint his fans. His enthusiastic performances more than make up for his lack of punching power, and his relentless attack does produce an accumulative effect on his opponents.

Winning a unanimous 10-round decision over **Darren "Mongoose" McGrew**, 135, Atlanta, Sturm demonstrated his uncanny ability to make his adversary fight on his level. As mobile as McGrew appeared to be, Sturm, 135, Glen Burnie, dictated the pace. And that pace was a non-stop offensive attack on the inside, which Sturm attributes to his excellent conditioning.

The taller McGrew, 16-8, came out early showing movement and flicking bothersome jabs. But in the middle of the second round, Sturm was able to get inside and land a big left uppercut that caught McGrew's attention. From that point, the theme was set for the remainder of the bout. Completely abandoning his jab, Sturm, 21-2-1, went to work at close range and never stopped. Whether the action was in the middle of the ring, along the ropes, or in the corners, each succeeding round looked like the previous one.

The only offense that McGrew could hope for was to back into the corner where the photographers were stationed and hope that one of the multitude of flashes would somehow bother or blind Sturm.

"His power faded as the fight went on," commented Sturm. "He did have some power in the first couple of rounds. By fighting him on the inside, I was able to take the leverage away from his punches. My corner wanted me to step back and throw the straight right hand, but I couldn't get it to work for me tonight."

McGrew suffered a swollen right eye from the repeated left hooks, and also a cut over the corner of the same eye. The referee was Larry Barrett.

Only two four-round bouts and a four-round exhibition filled out the card. Promoter Max Kisner explained that a total of seven bouts fell out along the way. "The commission went along with us for a lower number of rounds under the circumstances," he said.

Percy "Show No Mercy" Harris, 165, Laurel, raised his record to 2-0 with a TKO at 1:24 of the fourth round over southpaw Doug Seskey, 164, Pittsburgh. The bout, scheduled for four rounds, was stopped by referee Milton Greene after Seskey took a left uppercut to the solar plexus in the fourth. He had already been knocked down in the first and third rounds. Seskey dropped to 1-1.

Heavyweight Paul Ford, 220, Columbus, Ohio, won his first decision as a pro by defeating Sam Adkins, 225, Hagerstown, 1-2, via four-round split decision. Ford, 1-1, looked for his haymaker right hook, as Adkins kept buring his head on the southpaw's chest. Both fighters tired easily. The referee was Ray Klingmeyer.

Heavyweights Butch Kelly, Brooklyn Park, and Warren "Chico" Thompson staged a four-round exhibition. The referee was Karl Milligan.

Promoter: Classic Boxing Entertainment, Max Kisner
Matchmaker: Danny Kisner
Timekeeper: Harry Cecchini
Ring Announcer: Tony Baldoni
Judges: Larry Barrett, Ray Klingmeyer, Karl Milligan, Milton Greene
Attendance: 750 (estimated)
(11-8-89)

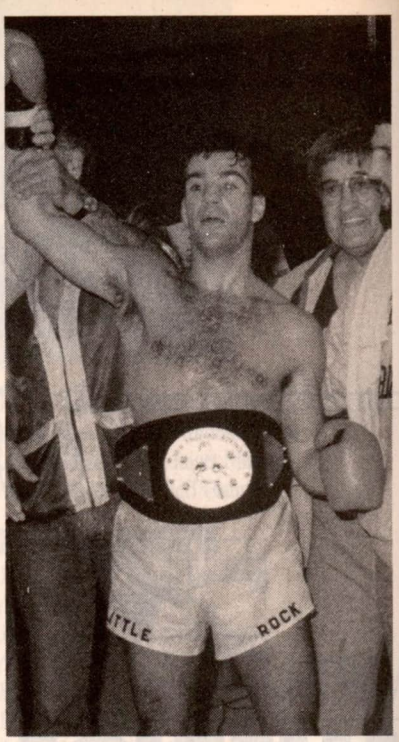
Fred Blumstein

MASSACHUSETTS

TAUNTON—It might seem like a small step in a boxer's career, especially when that boxer is fighting in the shadow of a relative named Rocky Marciano. But for **Mike Cappiello**, his first 10-rounder, and more importantly, his first title, means he now has a chance at building his own name, specifically in lucrative TV matches.

Cappiello, 126, West Bridgewater, won the New England featherweight title with a unanimous and relatively easy, if ever-exciting, 10-round decision over Lowell's **Manuel "Cold Sweat" Santiago**, 125, at the Roseland Ballroom. The two pugs had met in an six-rounder in June, with Cappiello outmuscling Santiago despite eating lots of leather. This time around, with the vacant title at stake, Cappiello added a new ingredient to his non-stop brawling style—defense. Cappiello's father was Marciano's cousin, and the "Little Rock" has become a huge local fan favorite by fighting in much the same slam-bang manner. On this night, however, Cappiello finally boxed as if he'd realized it's not unmanly to make the other guy miss.

Santiago's plan was obviously to keep Cappiello at long-range and bedevil him with long left jabs, outboxing him, and avoiding the infighting that is Cappiello's forte. Santiago succeeded in doing this through a slow first round, and even landed a couple of right crosses late. Thereafter, however, Cappiello would simply stay out of Santiago's range to thwart the jab, and then slip inside to punish his body. When matters went to close range, Santiago adopted a peekaboo stance, with his gloves held at either side of his head. This protected his noggin, but robbed him of any leverage to counter, and Cappiello rattled his ribs with hooks, and slipped the occasional uppercut up the middle.



Mike Cappiello

By the sixth round, Santiago was unable to sustain any offense, while Cappiello kept working inside, and even slipping punches. Santiago was drawn into an especially fierce slugout in the seventh, and he did connect with a pair of right haymakers, but it was a last gasp. Over the final three frames, Cappiello went more and more to the uppercut, and Santiago began holding and stalling.

Judge Barbara Roach scored it 98-94, and judge Don O'Neill saw it 99-94, while referee Nick Previti called in 99-93, all for Cappiello. *The Ring* scored 99-91. Cappiello improves to 9-1.

"Cappy fought this guy the only way he could," said trainer Goody Petronelli, "pressure him, rough him up, and outbank him." ESPN has had an eye on Cappiello, who teaches children with special needs by day, and the Petronelli brothers are hopeful their latest champ will be featured soon. "Cappy's a great fighter for TV," manager Pat Petronelli said. "Everyone knows they get their money's worth when he fights."

A six-round light-heavyweight semifinal was billed as a grudge match, though who knows why. Back on that June program, Petronelli product Drake Thadzi stopped late sub Keith Bristol in five rounds, leaving him out cold for five minutes. The veteran Bristol wanted a rematch with adequate training time and supposedly left his London fish-and-chips shop to get it. Once again, Thadzi, 178, Brockton, was too strong and too quick for the light-punching Bristol, 185, London. Bristol's conditioning enabled him to dance around for all six rounds, but his clubbing blows were of little help in discouraging Thadzi. Walking through Bristol's jab, Thadzi methodically wore him down, and almost put him away in the fifth, although Bristol reeled out of danger. The unanimous decision, 60-54 on our card, raised Thadzi to 10-1, while Bristol dropped to an unofficial 22-9.

Another six-rounder saw Brian Powers, 150, Holbrook, totally dominate Jose "Kid Cuba" Vera, 152, Bridgeport, Connecticut. Vera did little beyond clutching and grabbing, and Powers' record easily went to 7-0-1.

The night's strangest event was the four-rounder between Steve Manfredo, 150, Providence, and Ron "Pit Bull" Perkins, 150, Texas. Perkins, who'd make a fine pro wrestler if he were 100 pounds larger,

entered the ring wearing a spiked dog collar and proceeded to start a fight with Manfredo before introductions. When action began for real (?), Perkins' repertoire included bending so low that his opponent couldn't hit him, and imitating a heavybag. Mugging, scowling, and threatening Manfredo throughout, Perkins landed hardly any punches—probably because he hardly threw any. After awhile this wasn't funny, since Perkins was getting pummeled. Referee Previti awarded Manfredo a TKO at 1:35 of the fourth. To no one's surprise, Perkins protested and had to be dragged out of the ring, whence he began shaking hands and trying to rally support in the crowd.

A heavyweight four-rounder turned into a vicious brawl, and Kevin Denson, 192, Providence, outworked Holyoke's Juan Quintana, 220. Denson, who'd suffered a 10-bout losing skein earlier in his career, won his fourth straight to go to 7-12, while Quintana fell to 8-14.

The opening four-rounder saw Petronelli pug Mike O'Han, 178, Holbrook, return from a long layoff. But O'Han faded after a fast first stanza, and was fortunate to get a draw against Bridgeport's Ruben Cardona, 184.

Promoter: Pendarvix Boxing Promotions
Referees: Mick Previti, Doug Sherrin
Judges: Don O'Neill, Barbara Roach
Physician: Dr. Jorge Tello
Timer: Lee Leder
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
Gross: $9,000 (estimated)
(10-20-89)

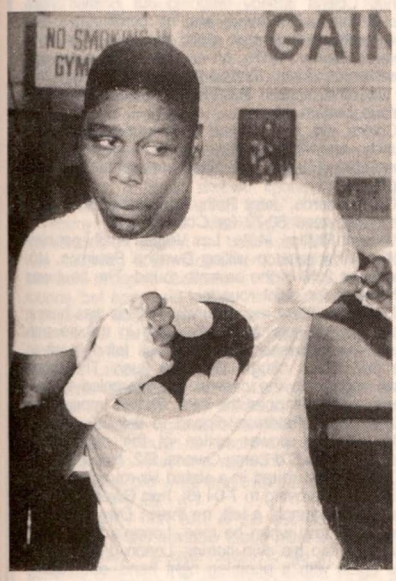
Jay N. Miller

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—Thanksgiving was celebrated by the 12,314 fans who attended the monthly Kronk-Ringside card at the Palace. They enjoyed the comeback quest of heavyweight **Tyrell Biggs**, 225, 16-3, Philadelphia, who banged out a TKO at 32 seconds of the fifth stanza over **Bobby Crabtree**, 212, 32-21-1, Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Crabtree went down twice in the fourth, and it was problematic from that point on, as the winner just had to pick his shots. Biggs is back, if he faces carefully chosen opponents, of course.

Anthony Jones, 137, improved to 23-1 but had to go the 10-round distance over warhorse Ramon Zavala, 137½, 16-2, Los Angeles, who wouldn't quit. It was unanimous for Jones, the Kronk hopeful in the junior welterweight class.



Tyrell Biggs

A split decision win was still a win for Floyd Favors, 132, 12-2-1, Capitol Heights, Maryland, via Kronk, as Las Vegan Dana Roston, 15-8, his left eye closed, kept coming in this spirited crowd-pleaser.

Unbeaten Phillipa Martin stayed that way in his six-rounder with Cleveland's George Taylor, 142¼, 5-3-1. Martin scored a shutout on all three cards. He is 7-0.

Another pristine record stayed intact when Ann Arbor's James Toney, 162½, improved to 14-0 with a convincing TKO in the fourth stanza over veteran Joe Johnson, 158, 8-4, Detroit. Johnson suffered a

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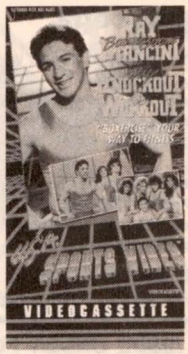

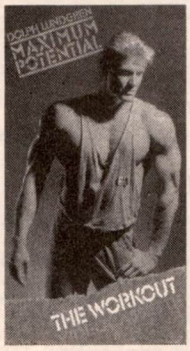

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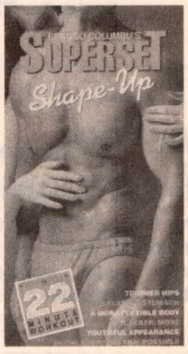

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cut on the left eyebrow. Toney was able to do pretty much as he pleased, but seemed to delight in landing his pronated left hook on Johnson's visage.

Former Olympian Anthony Hembrick, who took the prize for most flourescent ring attire, backed it up with a TKO win at 2:15 of the first stanza over Chattanooga light heavyweight Ken Bentley. The loser suffered a cut right eyebrow from Hembrick's fast hands. The 1988 Olympian is 10-0.

Lanky local junior middleweight favorite Andre Thibodeaux, whose father is coach, mentor, and metal sculpter extraordinaire, was topped by Cleveland's bulldog-like Rueben Torres, who took a decision victory. Torres is 8-4-3. Thibodeaux dropped to 7-2.

The opener was a rousing kayo win for newcomer Kevin Whaley-El, 151, as the Detroiter beat up on Marlon Jackson, 152, Pontiac. Jackson dropped Whaley-El, but was in turn knocked down and out at 2:19 of the second stanza of a crowd-pleaser. Jackson dropped to 1-2.

Promoter: Ringside Productions/Kronk Boxing
Matchmaker: Tommy Vacca
Commission: Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum, Ted Kuzemka, Jim Cullen, Hilmer Kenty
Physicians: Dr. Saul Shapiro, Dr. Jules Reinhardt
Timekeepers: William Hunter Jr., Joe Kollins
Ring Announcer: Wally Jackson
Referees: Sam Williams, Dale Grable
Judges: Phil LaDoceur, John Chaulk, John Parrish
Television: PASS cable network
Sponsor: Budweiser
Attendance: 12,314
(11-29-89)

Thomas F. Paruszkiewicz

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—Nigel Benn was raised in London's cockney ghetto of West Ham, which produced such international celebrities as actor Michael Caine and super model Twiggy.

The 26-year-old British middleweight feels if he is as successful in his chosen field as West Ham's brightest graduates, it will be the kind of career that spells world championship.

Benn took a large step in that direction when he closed out the year with an impressive Las Vegas debut, as Top Rank revived professional boxing at the Hacienda Hotel for the first time since 1986.

Promoter Bob Arum was forced to seek a new home for his ESPN fights in 1990, when the Showboat Hotel management elected to refurbish its Sports Pavilion as a venue for 24-hour bingo and other forms of legalized gaming.

Enter the Hacienda.

The 26-year-old Benn more than lived up to his sobriquet of "The Dark Destroyer" in annihilating Puerto Rico's **Jose Quinones** at 2:50 of the first round in a scheduled 10-round main event.

Benn kayos Quinones

The action was televised internationally by Telemundo, the Spanish network, which blacked out Las Vegas. But if Quinones' Latin constituents turned their heads, their evening was wasted.

Fighting along the ropes in close quarters, Benn got Quinones' attention with some heavy body shots and then smashed him through the ropes with a left-right. Moments later, Benn started Quinones reeling with a right, and then finished him with a chopping left. Quinones pitched face-down on the canvas, and referee Richard Steele didn't bother to count.

Benn's dramatic victory earned him a January date with Michael Olajide, and secondly, should he win that fight, a title shot at Roberto Duran's WBC middleweight crown.

Benn, rated sixth by the WBA and eighth by the IBF and WBC, improved to 24-1 (23).

"My new trainer, Vic Andretti, told me to use the jab and box Quinones," Benn said. "I wanted to see what the guy had to offer. I caught Quinones with a big uppercut, and I didn't realize I had hurt him until I looked into his eyes. But the guy was tough and I had to respect him. Instead of landing 1,000 punches for a kayo, I felt very relaxed in there."

Quinones, whose big career win was stopping Doug DeWitt in three rounds in 1987, fell to 26-10-2 (20).

Johnny Tapia, 117½, Albuquerque, improved to 14-0-1 (8) with a workmanlike eight-round decision over Martin Ramirez, 119, Los Angeles, who dropped to 9-2 (3).

Dan Sherry, 159, Burlington, Ontario, had too much skill for overmatched Steve Langley, 160, Wichita, Kansas. Sherry won a unanimous eight-round decision. He is 13-0 (6); Langley 12-7-1 (8).

Robert Wangila, 146, Las Vegas, recorded a TKO win over Roberto Garcia, 149, Los Angeles, at 1:55 of the second round in a scheduled six-rounder. Wangila is 9-0 (6); Garcia 5-18-3.

Chris Sande, 160, Las Vegas, made it three straight when he TKO'd Ricky Rios, 161, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at 1:53 of the first round.

Ron Warren, 161, Las Vegas, won a majority six-round decision over Ali Sanchez, 159, Las Vegas. Warren is 2-1, Sanchez 8-6 (4).
(12-1-89)

LAS VEGAS—Before **"Irish" Steve Collins** made his Las Vegas debut, his handlers, Goody and Pat Petronelli, were matter-of-fact in describing their protege "as sometimes doing just enough to win."

Once again the brothers Petronelli get high marks for honesty. Collins stopped **Roberto Rosiles** in the ninth round at the Showboat.

Nobody was expecting the Petronellis to unveil another Marvelous Marvin Hagler, so Collins, the undefeated USBA middleweight champion from Brockton, Massachusetts, didn't disappoint any of the 1,500 fight buffs in methodically raising his record to 16-0 (6).

Round after round, Collins, originally from Dublin, Ireland, moved in and out on Rosiles, Blythe, California. Collins' steady tattooing cut Rosiles' right eye in the fourth round, and he continued to fire away until another shot sliced the loser's left eye. Referee Carlos Padilla, on an order from a Nevada commission doctor, halted the bout at 52 seconds of the ninth round. Rosiles' cornermen made no serious protest.

Collins, 164, had pitched a shutout through eight rounds, and Rosiles, 164, needed a knockout he wasn't going to get. The latter's record fell to 20-10-1 (17).

On the cards, Jerry Roth, Paul Smith, and Cindi Bartin all voted 80-72 for Collins.

Vincent Phillips, 140½, Las Vegas, finally got himself together to stop willing Dwayne Peterson, 140, Detroit, at 2:46 of the seventh round. The bout was scheduled for eight rounds.

Lethargic in the early rounds, Phillips was having problems with his timing. But late in the seventh round, he delivered a picture-book left-right-left to the jaw, which caught Peterson flush. The tough loser sagged to the canvas and struggled to rise. Padilla wisely stopped the bout. Phillips improved to 9-0 (8), while Peterson dipped to 8-4 (2).

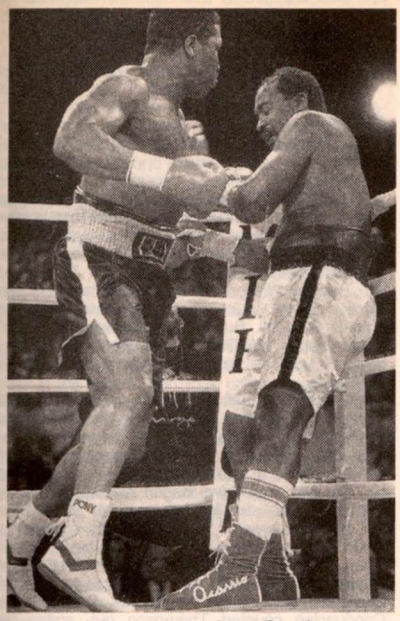
In the best power action of the night, Greg Lonon, 153, TKO'd Leroy Owens, 152, Las Vegas, at 1:57 of the first round in a slated six-round rematch.

Lonon, improving to 7-0-1 (6), hurt Owens with the first serious punch, a left, he threw. Owens went to his knees, and when he rose, Lonon's flurry drove the loser into his own corner. Lonon dropped Owens again with a booming right hand, and referee Toby Gibson halted the action at 2:12 of the opening round. Owens is 8-2-2 (3).

Kelcie Banks, 133, Las Vegas, had too much reach and skill in scoring a four-round decision over Bobby Brewer, 133, Denver. Banks is 4-1 (2), Brewer 7-2 (5).

Sonny Brennan, 167, Dunseath, North Dakota, scored his first pro win after one draw with a four-round decision over debuting Jim Saulnier, 167, Denver.

Cleveland Woods, 223, Las Vegas, labored to earn a unanimous four-round decision over John "Big Red" Morton, 244, Louisville. Woods is 8-1 (7), while Morton dropped to 5-11 (4).
(11-21-89)



Mercer outpoints Ocasio

LAS VEGAS—After watching **Ray Mercer's** last outing of 1989, Top Rank promoter Bob Arum's enthusiasm for developing a world-class heavyweight contender may now be no brighter than dim on a voltage meter.

Mercer, 210, did struggle to his 12th straight win as a professional, but Arum may have wished it wasn't part of the closed-circuit television package before Sugar Ray Leonard decisioned Roberto Duran at The Mirage hotel-casino.

The 28-year-old Olympic heavyweight champion met his most experienced rival, **Ossie Ocasio**, 227, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and wound up with an eight-round split decision.

There was nothing pretty about it, but Mercer did enough against the former WBA junior heavyweight champion to deserve a unanimous verdict. In the official voting, Chuck Giampa and Dalby Shirley both had it 78-76 for Mercer, while Paul Smith saw it 77-75 for Ocasio. The loser's 12-year pro log dipped to 23-7-1 (11).

Mercer hurt the 34-year-old Ocasio with combinations along the ropes in the sixth round, but he permitted his lumbering rival to repeatedly lock him in an embrace.

"It was a good learning experience for me," Mercer said. "I need a little more practice. However, Ocasio was a pretty shrewd fighter—really awkward—and a tough man to fight."

Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, 214, Kansas City, moved to 21-0 (17), but not before an alley fight with Ken Lakusta, 218, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Morrison dropped Lakusta in the first and third rounds, but appeared to lose his concentration. The protege of Bill Cayton was penalized a point by referee Mills Lane for butting in the sixth round, but Morrison went on to win a unanimous six-round decision. Lakusta fell to 16-15 (12).

Andrew Maynard, 173¾, Laurel, Maryland, a member of Sugar Ray Leonard's boxing team, wasn't too slick against Mike DeVito, 174, Cleveland, but did enough to record a unanimous eight-round decision. Maynard went the distance for the first time as a pro while improving to 9-0 (8). DeVito skidded to 11-4 (8).

"I thought I hurt him in the second round, but after that, I found out how tough Mike DeVito was," Maynard said. "It was foolish to go in and trade punches with him. I'm not disappointed in not getting a knockout."

Action following Leonard-Duran saw Vincent Phillips, 140½, Las Vegas, move to 10-0 (8) with a unanimous six-round decision over Santos "Apache" Moreno, 139, El Paso, Texas. Moreno is 54-15-2 (31).

Sergio Vela, 137, Las Vegas, had too many guns for Ricardo Cruz, 138, Los Angeles, as he raised his slate to 5-0 (3) with a second-round stoppage.

Greg Lonon, 154, Las Vegas, had no problem registering a unanimous six-round decision over Miguel Hernandez, 157½, Laredo, Texas, who fell to 13-7-1 (11).

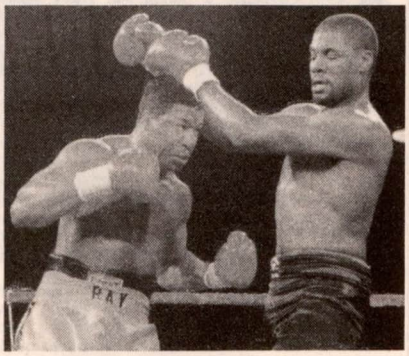
(12-7-89)

Jack Welsh

NEW JERSEY

WEST ORANGE—At the South Mountain Arena, ambitious Marc Roberts actually managed to upstage Atlantic City in one of the rare state cards held outside the casino town. More than just a local attraction, the show turned out to be what is termed an "event" as a packed house buzzed over celebrities (Sylvester Stallone, Burt Young, Danny Aiello, and George Foreman, who boxed an exhibition with Hassan Shabazz and feigned a knockdown) as much as they watched the bouts.

The real action wasn't at all glamorous, as two ballyhooed young lions had to struggle to unpleasing wins. **Ray Mercer**, 217¾, Essex County, won a unanimous verdict over **Jerry Jones**, 214, District Heights, Maryland, in an eight-rounder that saw the loser take a considerable beating, but come away with the solace of having won Mercer's hometown fans. Going down from a mystery punch in the first, the visitor looked like he couldn't wait to pick up his purse and head across the street to Roberts' requisite postfight party. But he surprisingly got up to extend the unbeaten Mercer to by far his longest distance, and only his second decision in 11 bouts. Working Jones' corner was Mercer's other distance foe, Garing Lane.



Mercer decisions Jones

Coming in at 7-1, the gangly southpaw lacked the strength to hold off the powerful Mercer. But his herky-jerk movement and long reach were enough to repeatedly bring the freight train to a screeching halt just shy of the station. After watching Jones survive a standing eight in the fourth, a bloody nose in the fifth, and another canvasing in the seventh, the fans no longer wanted a sacrifice, and set up a rousing "Jerry! Jerry!" chant.

"Every time they chanted for me, I got hit harder," Jones groaned.

But not hard enough. The final round was pure theatre, as Jones tried desperately to last, while a tiring Mercer was equally pained to rescue his performance. A right finally crashed Jones to the floor just before the bell, but the crowd seemed to will him to his feet. Jones finished and lost by scores of 79-63 (Eva Shain), and 79-70 (Eugene Grant and John Riley). Tony Orlando refereed.

Also less than expected was Tommy Morrison, 211, Kansas City, in mauling to a six-round unanimous decision win over trialhorse Lorenzo Canady, 233, Detroit. Abandoning the wicked body attack that had carried him to recent impressive wins, Morrison did little harm of note, and won mainly because he at least looked like he wanted to fight. The reluctant Canady shut him down, however, and had the satisfaction of inflicting the only real damage when he cut Morrison's right eye in the second. Bill Cayton, Morrison's co-manager, blamed the distraction of mock cornerwork by filmmakers Stallone and Young for his fighter's bedazzled performance. (Morrison will be featured in *Rocky V.*) The referee was Tony Orlando.

Virtually lost amidst the shortfall efforts was a positively sterling display by Charles Murray, 142, Rochester via Essex County, in winning a unanimous eight-round decision over Howard Stewart, 142, Kankakee, Illinois, via Ft. Worth. Now under the tutelage of Dave Gorman, the determined Stewart should have been the toughest of Murray's opponents. But Murray's fluid movement and quick precision punching made it an easy fight. Normally a resolute pressure fighter, Stewart kept his distance and tried to box the boxer, which put him at a disadvantage about equal to Quixote versus the windmill. By the fourth, Stewart was becoming unlaced, and in the sixth, a right-left-right combo dropped him and bloodied his mouth. Only heart and pride kept Stewart upright to the end of the round. The referee was Paul Venti.

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KO

Free-swinging Alfred Cole, 188, Essex County, stopped unbeaten but overmatched Luis Castillo, 188¼, Guayaquil, Ecuador, via New York City, at 1:29 of the third round, scheduled six. Two whistling right leads spun Castillo to the canvas in the first, but he hung around until rescued on his feet by Venti. It was his first loss after three wins.

Peter Nieves, 131, New York City, pulled out the narrowest of majority wins over Pat "Curly" Simeon, 128¼, Miami, over four rounds. A cut eye in the third nearly cost a diffident Nieves, and it aroused him to take action. The referee was Venti.

In no way did reluctant Tyree Johnson, 132¼, Philadelphia, deserve a majority draw against assertive Joe Wallace, 134, Queens, New York, in an uneventful four-rounder. Johnson's refusal to trade was evidently mistaken for good boxing. The referee was Orlando.

Promoters: Marc Roberts, Bob Arum
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner, Ron Katz
Attendance: 3,232
TV: ESPN
Timekeeper: Lindsay Tucker
Ring Announcer: Mike Buffer
(11-14-89)

ATLANTIC CITY—Though he's taking a bit longer to develop than many young hopefuls now do, it was still his exceptional punch that **Tracy Spann** ultimately relied on to salvage a potentially disastrous evening with dangerous **Bryant Paden** at the Trump Castle Casino Resort. Spann, 134, Staten Island, New York, TKO'd Paden, 134, Philadelphia, with a lightning strike 2:35 into the fourth round of a blistering bout scheduled for 12. The contest was for yet another meaningless regional title that isn't worth note, but there was nothing insignificant about the action.

A slick and difficult spoiler, Paden had built a chilling reputation for beating the unbeaten. And Spann entered the ring at 32-0. A clever counterpuncher, Paden will stink out the house if an opponent allows it. But the aggressive, confident, and hard-hitting Spann was having none of that.

In furious trading, Spann tried to overwhelm Paden's skills with volume and vigor. Paden, proving he can fight when he has to, battled back without a trace of intimidation. Action turned quickly, as the unbeaten prospect showed he could be hit. But one blazing exchange exhibited how dangerous a southpaw with power can be. Paden went under a left, came back with a right counter, but stood up into a right hook that buried him. Floundering on shaky pins, he watched helplessly as referee Joe Cortez stopped it. Explained the winner, "It wasn't like I set him up for the shot. The knockout showed the value of throwing combinations. I caught him because he was worrying about the last punch I threw and walked right into the next one."

As stunning as was Spann's triumph, it was as ordinary as the sun rising in the morning compared to what happened to David Rivello in the semi-final. Coming in at 14-0, Rivello, 136, Attleboro, Massachusetts, had a hard-won victory tucked away going into the 10th and final round against trialhorse Kent Hardee, 135, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Running, and popping a counter only when the pressing Hardee left an opening, Rivello had forged ahead in the early-rounds tedium. In the second half, the New Englander increased his lead by reversing gears and manhandling an increasingly tiring Hardee in rugged action. Rivello led on all cards with a round to go, 87-83 from Rich Strange, 87-84 from Frank Brunette, and 88-82 from Lynne Carter. But in a cinematic ending, Hardee trapped Rivello on the ropes in the final session, cut off his escape with a whir of gloves, and kept him there until he had no place to go but down from a right uppercut. The felled warrior lurched to his feet with a Herculean effort, but arced backwards into the turnbuckles to prompt referee Arthur Mercante to halt it. 'We had it planned that way," said Johnny Bos, Hardee's handler. "We had to show the poeple what he has."

In a disciplined effort, Johnny Brown, 132, Atlantic City, upset unbeaten Angel Gomez, 134, Philadelphia, by unanimous six-round decision. Gomez' big arcing swings couldn't find the compact, resolute Brown, who seemed to disappear from sight by stepping in and firing short jolts. The referee was Cortez.

Lefty Donald Harris, 142½, Philadelphia, appeared lucky to get a split decision over Louis Pagan, 147½, Rochester, when the judges mistook Harris' shutting down of the action for good boxing. The referee was Mercante.

Charles Brewer, 161, Philadelphia, looked good, working over and dropping Eric Rinehardt, 161, Charlotte, for a TKO at 1:53 of the third, scheduled for four. The referee was Mercante.

Luis Castillo, 135, Guayaquil, Ecuador, via Queens, punched out Sean Jones, 192, Boston, who was dropped in a corner, then appeared ill-prepared to continue, at 2:26 of the first round, scheduled for four. The referee was Cortez.

Promoter: Bob Arum (Top Rank, Inc.)
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner, Ron Katz
Attendance: 1400 (estimated)
TV: ESPN
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker
Ring Announcer: Michael Buffer
(11-7-89)

ATLANTIC CITY—What started as a gym rivalry developed into a formal bout at the Resorts International Hotel, then ended with the sudden fury of a street fight. The records alone seemed to almost guarantee an outstanding match. **Jeff Thompson**, 175, Racine, Wisconsin, via Detroit, had only one blemish in 20 bouts, that to common opponent Frankie Swindell. But **Michael Moorer**, Monessen, Pennsylvania, via Detroit, one-upped him, having gone 16-0, all by kayo. Moorer's victims included Swindell.

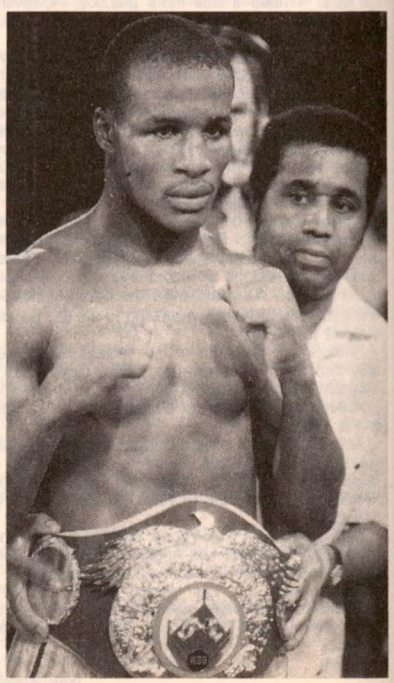
Thompson had left the Kronk gym in a huff once Moorer showed up, complaining the upstart was getting all the attention. But if it was vengeance he was after, he was terribly disappointed. Moorer lured him into a trap that sprung like a gangland hit. The two southpaws began exchanging briskly, with the action seeming to galvanize Moorer. The hot prospect worked both hands in a gathering storm until a lightning-bolt right struck Thompson down. When a bloodied Thompson arose, Moorer came right back with an "oh-no-you-don't!" right that spun its victim to the canvas. Referee Frank Cappuccino counted Thompson out, ending the scheduled 12-rounder at 1:46 of round one.

"He just caught me cold," the loser alibied. "But I will give him this: I've never been knocked out like that before. Man, that was some punch!" Privately, and in defiance of some mighty evidence, Thompson nevertheless groused, "I still don't think he's better than me."

It was a changing of the guard when Jemal Hinton, 121, District Heights, Maryland, TKO'd Robert Shannon, 122, Lynnwood, Washington, at 2:19 of the 11th round, scheduled for 12. Two-time Olympic representative Shannon looked like a shot fighter who'd stayed too long in the amateurs, whereas the near-perfect Hinton may well graduate first in the 1988 class of prospects.

The southpaw Shannon was nearly gone before it started, as he tried a right hook only to be beaten to the punch by a short right that left him on the canvas. From then on, Hinton was so good that Shannon couldn't seem to do anything right. No matter what he tried in the fast-paced, snappy action, Hinton's quick, sharp hands were there with such accuracy that it looked like he had sent a spy to Shannon's camp. A left hook dropped Shannon in the fourth, and a clash of heads cut him.

By the seventh, Shannon's legendary cornerman, Angelo Dundee, was shouting, "Hit him low!" But Emanuel Steward's prospect proved better even in



Michael Moorer

the borderline trading. With the toe-to-toe action becoming a foul-festival, Shannon was increasingly hairpinned. Hinton ripped the doubled-over Shannon with endless uppercuts, and Dundee finally mounted the apron in surrender. Referee Rudy Battle waved it over in the penultimate round.

In an undercard star-studded with fine prospects, lefty Sharmba Mitchell, 137, Washington, D.C., shellacked hapless Joe Alexander, 139, Philadelphia, by unanimous eight-round decision. Alexander kept trying, but was hopelessly outskilled, until Mitchell finally seemed to dull a bit from the monotony. The referee was Battle.

Ricky Meyers, 141, Port Reading, nearly complied with John "Death Wish" Garner, 141, Tarrytown, Louisiana, a wild-eyed kickboxer. A poised Meyers clobbered the Death Wish to the floor three times in just 1:42 of a frenzied first, scheduled for six rounds. The referee was Earl Morton.

In an all-southpaw pairing, Phillips Martin, 140½, Farmington, Michigan, got up from a flash knockdown in the second and took control against Tony Zayas, 142, Trenton, until referee Morton abruptly stopped the scheduled four with Zayas rocked, but on his feet, at 2:27 of the same round. Though Zayas offered no protest, the ensuing furor nearly launched his co-manager, Joey Giardello, on an impromptu comeback versus Morton.

Promoters: Frank Gelb, Stan Hoffman.
Matchmakers: Bill Kozerski, Tommy Vacca.
Attendance: 900 (estimated)
TV: USA Network
Judges (main event): Rick Bays (Florida), Harold Lederman (New York), Bernie Hardy (parts unknown)
Judges (undercard): Milo Savage, Joe Pasquale, Jean Williams
Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert
Announcer: Hank Kropinski
(11-6-89)

ATLANTIC CITY—At the Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino, it was proven that boxing isn't streetfighting, evidenced by the fact that even though both of the top pairings on this show had strong elements of genuine "bad blood," neither produced the stirring action of a publicist's dreams. When journeyman **Russell Mitchell** arrived to defend the NABF welterweight crown, challenger **Aaron Davis** greeted him with "When I beat you, they'll just say I beat another bum."

Little wonder that southpaw spoiler Mitchell, 146, Quail Valley, California, had it in for Davis, 147, Bronx, but it didn't help him. (The "bum" reference was to the champion's 15-10-3 record, a thoroughly baffling mix of upset wins and losses.) Indeed, a smart fight plan enabled Mitchell to jump a fast start, sweeping the first three rounds on all cards with a peppery hit-and-run attack. Mitchell moved quickly inside Davis' power, flurry at close quarters, then scoot away. But it wasn't the stuff of bitter vengeance, and the challenger remained unphased. The kind of fighter that the "smart boys" keep insisting is ready to be taken, Davis continues to come out a winner, a perfect 26-0 going in.

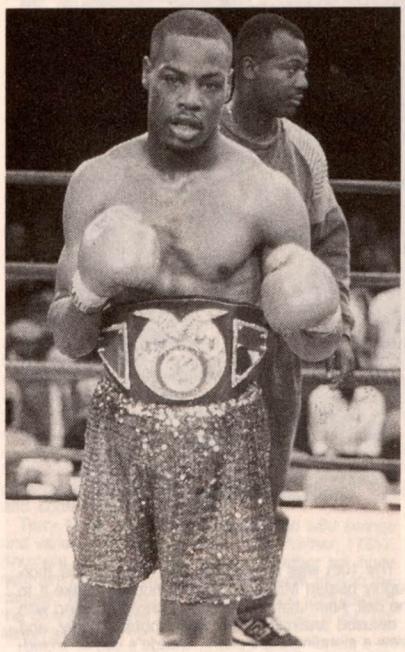
When the New Yorker's jab began closing the visitor's right eye in the fourth, it seemed only a matter of time before his greater strength would prevail. A round later, a left hook to the body cut off Mitchell's egress from close range. And in the sixth, Davis leaned on Mitchell and brought up a vicious left uppercut to the swollen eye. With a visible display of pain, Mitchell turned away and folded to the canvas, where Randy Neumann counted him out to end the scheduled 12-rounder at 1:52.

The enmity didn't end there. Presented with the belt, the new holder attempted to return it to the former and wait for his own to be made up. Mitchell refused it, snapping, "You'll never be a champion." Mitchell went on to berate the officiating, charging that everyone was against him (he was ahead on the cards!), and accused Davis of more fouls than found in your average basketball game. Countered Davis, "I got thumbed in the eye, so I was seeing three people. I kept hitting the wrong one."

Even more rancorous was the unanimous decision win scored by Seamus McDonagh, 200, Brooklyn, over Michael Greer, 204, Memphis, in a tedious, ineffective 10-rounder. Greer must have gotten a message when McDonagh was led into the ring by a corps of bagpipes, and the referee was announced as "Irish" Joe O'Neil. For the veteran trialhorse behaved as if he had little hope of winning, and was trying to salvage a moral victory by making McDonagh look bad. In that he succeeded. Greer taunted and insulted McDonagh, complained and argued constantly with O'Neil, and fought after the bell, but little during the rounds. Brawler McDonagh was befuddled to a near-standstill, as Greer poked, cuffed, and cut him, but refused to exchange.

Frustration provoked more action in the clinches than at punching range, as fans began to lose patience. Meanwhile, McDonagh finally made his point when he put over a big right to hurt Greer in the eighth, then worked him in the corners for a couple of rounds. Both remained in their corners after the final bell, with Greer stalking from the ring when the scores were announced. Frank Cairo had it 96-94, Thomas Kaczmarek 97-93, and Deborah Barnes 96-95.

"I know I had to knock him out to win," commented the loser in revealing more about himself than the judges. "I gave 'em a good show . . . I feel great, don't worry about me. Worry about that other sucker. He didn't hit me but once or twice . . . He didn't know what to do against me."



Aaron Davis

Greg Everett, 174, Newark, via Brigantine, TKO'd Ron Martin, 174, Opelousas, Louisiana, at 2:39 of the first round, scheduled for 10. The hard-hitting Trump Plaza employee seemed to intimidate the visitor when he hit him a shot at the very start. Martin went down twice from nothing much, then rallied when he realized he could reach Everett with left hooks. But Martin was eventually buried by a short, doubled-up right. The referee was Neumann.

Southpaw Kevin Kelley, 128, Flushing, New York, dropped a completely outclassed Martin Mendoza, 126, Matamoros, Mexico, via McAllen, Texas, who was rescued by O'Neil at 52 seconds of the first round, scheduled for eight.

Promising Regilio Tuur, 131, Surinam, via Whitestone, New York, blew out Willie McNeal, 132, Philadelphia, who was dropped, took a standing eight, then was dropped again for an automatic TKO at 2:36 of the first round, scheduled for six. The referee was Neumann.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing
Matchmaker: Bobby Goodman
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
TV: MSG Cable
Judges: Carol Castellano replaced Barnes for main event
Timekeeper: Art Spell
Announcer: Ed Derian
(11-30-89)

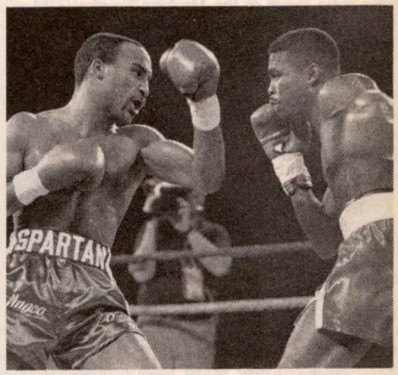
J. R. Jowett

NEW YORK

CALLICOON—Madison Square Garden's travelling roadshow, left without a home while the Felt Forum is renovated, visited the plush Villa Roma resort in picturesque Sullivan County. The card was a notable success, both artistically and financially.

Could it be that a fighter who secures the requisite title of world champion and then loses it, and a fighter subsequently tough enough to survive the emotional devastation of losing the crown, can eventually develop into truly great fighter? **James "Buddy" McGirt** showed encouraging signs of such an evolution with a staller performance against no knockover in **Joe Manley**.

McGirt, 144, Brentwood, commanded virtually every round in stopping Manley, 143¾, Detroit, at 2:59 of the ninth, scheduled for 10. McGirt immediately established his game with thudding body shots that cut off Manley's perpetual motion. Coming off a hard-fought win over Donnie Poole, Manley was not the shot fighter that the common wisdom had deemed. But his standup, one-two style was smartly nullified by McGirt's deft slipping and precise combinations. McGirt moved his head just enough to dodge the jab without losing position, then brought up jolting left hooks over his foe's low right, and came back with his own solid rights over the fizzled jab.



McGirt-Manley

Action was brisk and purposeful, with Manley being steadily ground down. Though his head remained clear, by the ninth, his legs were gone. McGirt sensed it, like a predator probing for stragglers, and smoothly shifted into a cold killer attack.

A rocket right and crunching left hook sent Manley's mouthpiece flying. A confused Manley seemed concerned that referee Joe Santarpia was stopping the fight when action was halted to retrieve the gumshield. He was only off by seconds. McGirt came right back with the same combo, which forced a standing eight-count, then drove Manley around the ring on quivering legs. Finally, Manley crashed. Arising from the knockdown, he was rescued, with Santarpia halting the bout despite the loser's bitter protests.

A slow and shot Mustafa Hamsho, 172¼, Brooklyn, showed little but an intense desire to win in an ill-considered comeback. However, he was pretty fairly matched against another returning oldie in Wesley Reid, 168¼, Montego Bay via Boston, in a scheduled eight. The resulting senior circuit clash was bruising and competitive, but fought as if the brawlers were stuck in molasses! Hamsho was nearly gone in the first, when a vicious right uppercut left him defenseless against the ropes. A standing eight by Santarpia saved him. Reid groped unsuccessfully for the trigger thereafter, as Hamsho slowly wore him down in rugged, mauling action. When Reid found himself on the other end of a similar situation in the fifth, but having nothing left with which to fight back, Santarpia pulled the plug at the 2:47 mark.

In a most unusual prefight comment, Hamsho's manager, Al Certo, declared, "I hope he gets knocked on his butt . . . His legs are gone. I hope he looks so bad, he gets embarrassed." But the fighter denied his manager's assertion that he didn't need the money. "Al's crazy," Hamsho insisted. "He's making me a millionaire . . . Don't say I have a lot of money. I mean, I thank God I'm not broken down."

Unpredictable Gino Gelormino, 129, Levittown, had one of his better nights, burying Amos Cowart, 129½, Winter Haven, Florida, with a perfect left hook-right cross at 1:57 of the first, scheduled 10. The referee was Ken Zimmer.

Hot prospect Steve Martinez, 154, Houston, had an incredible run of 10 straight one-round kayos come to an end when forced the distance by savvy vet Terry Crawley, 155, Hyannis, Massachusetts, over six rounds. Crawley took a standing eight in the third, and was shut out on all cards. The referee was Zimmer.

Immensely popular local hero Lou Savarese, 213½, Greenwood Lake, displayed a quick and varied mix of punches in a lively TKO of John Jackson, 213, Brooklyn, at 2:59 of the first round, scheduled four. Jackson took two standing eights before Zimmer stopped it.

Genaro Andujar, 128, The Bronx, was a little too spirited for classy but slightly stage-struck southpaw Antonio Gonzalez, 123¼, Brooklyn, and gained a unanimous win in a good four-rounder. The referee was Santarpia.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden Boxing
Matchmaker: Bobby Goodman

Attendance: 1,220
TV: MSG Network
Judges: Billy Costello, Shane Shahinian, Wynn Kintz
Timekeeper: Cecilio Pedraja
Ring Announcer: Ed Derian
(II-10-89)

J.R. Jowett

NEW YORK CITY—Former IBF junior welterweight champion **James "Buddy" McGirt** scored a unanimous 10-round decision over **Rafael Williams** in the main event of the Madison Square Garden card that preceded the closed-circuit telecast of the Sugar Ray Leonard-Roberto Duran fight.

The win was McGirt's fifth in a row since he moved up to the welterweight ranks last May. He dominated the bout throughout, flooring Williams in the first and fourth rounds. In the fifth, McGirt, 147, Brentwood, stung his opponent with a solid right-left combination. Williams, 148, Long Island City, whose only good round was the third, almost went down again in the 10th.

Judge Carol Castellano scored 100-85, Barbara Perez saw it 100-84, and Al Reid's count was 99-85. The referee was Arthur Mercante Sr.

McGirt raised his record to 46-2-1 (36); Williams dropped to 29-6 (18).

In a scheduled 10-round middleweight bout, Merqui "El Corombo" Sosa, 167½, Brooklyn, remained undefeated with a TKO of Miguel Antonio Mosna, 168½, Buenos Aires, at 2:38 of the fourth round. Sosa probably would have scored a kayo had referee Luis Rivera not stopped the fight before reaching the 10-count. It was Sosa's 11th kayo in 15 fights. Mosna's record is 20-8-1 (11).

Brinatty "Corona Cobra" Maquillon, 159, Corona, stopped Terry Crawley, 156, Hyannis, Massachusetts, at 1:59 of the sixth in a scheduled eight-round middleweight encounter. Maquillon is 10-4 (4), while Crawley dropped to 18-12-2 (6).

In the quickest bout of the night, Ferris Christian, 159, the Bronx, TKO'd Donny Leonardo, 161½, Staten Island, at 1:19 of the first round. Christian floored Leonardo twice, with Leonardo receiving two standing eight-counts before the scheduled four-round middleweight bout was stopped. It was Christian's first professional win after two losses, and Leonardo's first loss after two kayo wins.
(12-7-89)

Andy Rodriguez

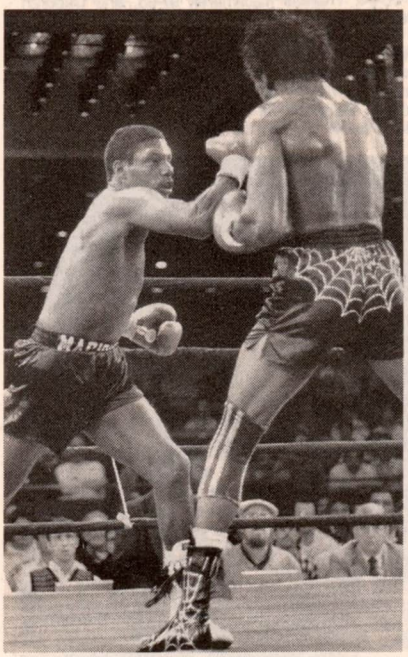
ALBANY—When it rains in Albany, it pours. Not much happens here in boxing, but when **Michael Olajide** was lured to the Empire State Plaza Convention Center to be fleeced by the backers of **Dennis Milton**, fans got enough action, drama, and plain old scandal to survive another drought. It took 'em two weeks to decide this fight, but as far as is known, Milton got away with a split verdict that is as questionable as Leona Helmsley's tax return.

In a well-publicized move, Milton's latest backer, Lenny Minuto, had put up a dazzling purse of $100,000 to get Olajide in the ring. The promotion couldn't have covered his investment if they sold seats in the parking garage. But as it turned out, shaky local officiating made it a blue-chip move. As with so much of boxing, what went on in the ring was exciting, valorous, and worth every penny. And what went on at ringside was shoddy and sickening.

Given little legitimate chance, Milton, 159¾, formerly The Bronx, but now out of Bob Miller's Albany gym, started like he needed no help from anyone. Olajide, 160½, New York City, entered dressed as a spider, and taunted the noisily hostile crowd. But he looked more like the bewildered and worried fly as Milton beat him to the punch with crisp, well-placed combinations. With his shadowy career on the line, Milton, the former Gotham Golden Glove standout, appeared to be finally putting it all together. Olajide administered a dose of reality in the second, when he pitched a left hook counter over a tentative right to the body, and Milton was halfway to the floor before he straightened up. But the underdog regained control of a tense, exciting battle that was becoming an embarrassment to the bloodied invader.

In the fifth, Olajide attempted to wrest command by changing the battle conditions. An increase in the roughhouse ingredient would have Milton's trainer, Victor Machado, screaming "foul" at referee Ken Zimmer for the rest of the contest. Still, Milton more than held his own in bitter fighting into the stretch drive. Olajide established his jab in the eighth, but nothing could portend the mayhem that was to follow.

Olajide began unleashing his right like his hole card in the ninth, while Milton's biggest fear, that of wilting in a heated battle, was being realized. With bedlam reigning, the desperately-clutching local was penalized for holding, then got rocked and pinned Olajide to the ropes in a death grip. With the sands of opportunity trickling away, the frustrated Olajide cheap-shotted Milton as Zimmer pried him off, drew an admonition, then landed a big right that sent Milton staggering to his corner at the bell. Meanwhile, Machado charged the referee, Lou Duva-style.



Milton-Olajide

The 10th was a race with the devil, as the thoroughly beaten Milton could only hope to make it to the bell. Alternately running and bravely trading with a defused arsenal, Milton was wobbled badly, and drew a standing eight-count. Olajide's corner crowded the apron in a frenzy, as they felt Zimmer let precious seconds slip away. On resumption, a big right sent Milton reeling halfway around the ring, with Zimmer waving his arms in an "enough" signal, running between the fighters, and grabbing the barely upright Milton.

Everyone thought the fight had been stopped! Olajide's corner cavorted amid a rain of ice and debris from angry fans, while Machado consoled the "defeated" Milton. There appeared to be nothing left but the requiem of the announcement, but Milton's courageous down-to-the-wire saga was about to become a surreal horror story. The eerie disquiet of an impending travesty settled over the ring, as both corners hovered above Commissioner Randy Gordon. Shortly, the Olajide group could be heard bellowing angrily, while Milton's people jumped for joy, shouting, "We got it!"

A decision was announced, which only compounded, rather than mitigated, the referee's confused action. Olajide's blazing finish, especially in light of Gordon's recent emphasis on full use of the 10-point scoring system, appeared to have been enough to pull it out. Indeed, Sid Rubinstein had scored it for him, 94-92, but locals Wynn Kintz and Moe Pier gave it to Milton, 94-91 and 94-90, respectively.

Zimmer had protested that he hadn't stopped the fight, but had thought (mistakenly) that he'd heard the final bell. The ensuing controversy took over two weeks, and after an intensive commission investigation, Gordon favored a no contest, as the final round was never completed (by three seconds). Commissioner Jimmy Dupree voted that the decision should stand. The potential tie-breaker, Commissioner Rose Trentman, was disqualified on the grounds that her lawyer is also Milton's. Ironically, her forced abstention only supported Milton, anyway.

A proposal to have Zimmer's version investigated by lie detector proved impractical. But after thorough questioning, Gordon reportedly was satisfied that the referee's recollection of a bell was sincere. With the two officials at a standoff, Gordon invoked the rule that because of a tie vote, the original outcome stood. Milton was declared winner, while no one supported the rightful victor, Olajide.

Unsung prospect Kevin Pompey, 149¾, Troy, won a shutout over returning Curtis Summit, 149½, Joliet, Illinois, in an action-packed 10-rounder. Despite a long absence, Summit looked in shape and serious. But Pompey was too quick and sharp in roof-raising action. The referee was Harry Papacharalambous.

Louis Pagan, 148¾, Geneva, exploded to drop and TKO Lorenzo Bouie, 147, Catskill, at 2:11 of the first round, scheduled for four. Referee: Zimmer.

Jose Arias, 143½, Providence, gained a unanimous verdict over Alton Grey, 140½, Catskill, in a clumsy four-rounder. Referee: Papacharalambous.

Willie Kemp, 170¾, Troy, was lucky to get a majority verdict over Larry King, 174, Rochester, in a hard-fought four-rounder. Kemp was down and took a standing eight-count in the second, but came back to wear King out. Referee: Zimmer.

Wilfredo Velez, 141¾, The Bronx, was working over game William Growick, 137, Latham, then cut his eye for a TKO at 2:42 of the second round, scheduled for four. Referee: Papacharalambous.

Promoter: Kevin Young (Universal Promotions)
Matchmaker: Lorraine Miller
Attendance: 800
Timekeeper: Carol Blair
Ring Announcer: Paul LaFleur
(12-1-89)

J.R. Jowett

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH—In the scheduled 10-round main event at the Sheraton at Staton Square, **Eddie Hall**, 161, Uniontown, pounded out a fourth-round TKO over **Robert Curry**, 163, Beckley, West Virginia. Curry was hanging tough against the wild Hall until midway through the fourth, when a pair of overhand rights dropped him twice. The fight was stopped shortly thereafter at 1:58.

Tommy Ayers, 152, Cincinnati, returned from a long layoff to register a first-round TKO of Donald Gwynn, 149, Charleston, West Virginia. Gwynn had been down twice early in the first and was in deep trouble when rescued at the 1:10 mark.

Bert Gravely, 182, Beckley, scored a unanimous eight-round decision over Dan Mitchell, 173, Pittsburgh, who took the fight on two hours notice. Mitchell was down briefly in the second from a right-hand counter. Scores: 37-35 twice, and 37-34.

West Turner, 230, Morgantown, met little resistance from Glen Denson, 205, Cincinnati, who fell down twice and was counted out at 1:12 of round one. Scheduled for four rounds.

Mark Anthony, 285, Pittsburgh, needed only 37 seconds to ice Rodney Podine, 198, Erlanger, Kentucky. Anthony landed a left jab-straight right combo, and down and out went Podine. Scheduled for four.

Debuting hometowner Michael Garro, 138, won a unanimous four-round decision over Reggie Buse, 136, St. Louis. Garro was too busy for Buse and earned a 20-16 score on all three judges' cards.

Tyrell Harris, 159, Pittsburgh, scored a third-round knockout of Titus Taylor, 160, Cincinnati. Harris landed a right hand to the chin of Taylor to drop him for the count at 25 seconds of round three. Scheduled for four.

Tim Taylor, 176, Uniontown, registered a first-round knockout over china-chinned Brad Rome, 180, Cincinnati. Rome was down twice from left hooks and was counted out in a mere 27 seconds. Scheduled for four.

Promoter: Dave Kadir
Matchmaker: J.J. Johnson
Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)
(II-22-89)

Erich Gliebe

TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE—Unbeaten Nashville cruiserweight **Loren "The Boss" Ross'** first full-length home victory was nonetheless his most impressive, as he threw an eight-round shutout over rubbery but resilient Knoxvillian **Trent Surratt** in the co-main event of the latest Coors "Best Of The Rockys" promotion. Manager Stan Allen's recent attempts to showcase Ross' considerable skills and build a local following had been undermined by three consecutive less-than-enthusiastic opponents, none of whom had seen fit to remain erect for so much as a heartfelt three minutes.

Ross came in at a chiseled 195 and asserted himself from bell one, peppering the peek-a-booing Surratt, 194, with sharp left jabs and straight rights. Surratt attempted to counter with a sporadic looping flurry before retreating to the ropes and covering up. Ross took his attack downstairs in round two, and the effects of a vicious left-right-left hook series left Surratt grimacing. Surrat's pain was only compounded by a timekeeper's error, which extended the round an undetected extra minute.

Throughout the middle rounds, Surratt remained

near the ropes, absorbing what he couldn't deflect and occasionally sending up a prayer of a wild right that was frequently answered by a Ross left hook to the ribs. With the exception of a moment of frustrated gambling in the fourth round, when Ross, going for the knockout, let himself get tagged with a serious short left, the contest's outcome was never in question.

Ross finally sent Surratt to one knee with a stiff jab a minute into the seventh, but the subsequent eight-count only seemed to revitalize Surratt who, despite a swollen left eye and unsteady legs, steeled himself to go the route. Judges scored it 80-59, 80-70, and a slightly hyperbolic 80-60 for Ross, who ran his record to 9-0 (6). Surratt fell to 7-3.

In the co-main event, fifth-ranked light heavyweight **Frankie Swindell**, Nashville, coming back after a blatantly premature stoppage against Michael Moorer in the latter's hometown, got a necessary tuneup at a somewhat gelatinous 195 pounds before his next scheduled title go against Prince Charles Williams in January. Swindell pursued **Paris "The Ghost" Johnson**, 184, Columbus, Ohio, with a waving jab out of his customary crablike crouch until materializing a huge left hook at 2:15 that left 'The Ghost" summarily busted. Swindell is now 20-3 and remains a true contender with an enigmatic, unflamboyant style but a world-class punch. Johnson suffered his third loss in 12 fights.

The upset of the year in Nashville occurred on the undercard when "Diamond" Jim MacDonald, 190½, Flint, Michigan, was stopped in the first of a scheduled six rounds by local rising star Kevin Poindexter, 194. Several years back, MacDonald, then in his prime and at a natural 170, had extended Michael Spinks before losing via TKO. Now hoping to ride a current winning streak into title consideration as a cruiserweight, MacDonald again demonstrated that the extra poundage does nothing but slow his reflexes and lighten his once-respectable punch. Indeed, halfway into the first round, MacDonald answered the last of a series of Poindexter's exploratory right leads with a thundering shot and headed without looking to a neutral corner to await the 10-count. Then he turned and faced an opponent undeniably upright and unstunned. Seconds later, MacDonald took a right uppercut flush to the left eye and was forced to cover up and take a pummeling until referee Steve Murff summoned ring physician Dr. Ross Fleming. His examination found abrasions under and over the eye, and an ominous hematoma in the upper eyelid that forced the fight's cessation. MacDonald later protested that the injury was the result of a thumbing and, as such, should be scored no contest. But it's in the books as a TKO. Poindexter was jubilant after raising his record to 5-1 (4), and signed eagerly in the dressing room to fight Ross in November. MacDonald, his best days rapidly receding, faded to 27-6 (21).

Huge Nate Tubbs, 250, Cincinnati, the brother of Tony Tubbs, stayed unbeaten when his first hard punch incapacitated Rodney Thomas, 210. Thomas, one of a stable of pathetic Cincy opponents who besmirched the last Nashville card, had his record adjusted to an utterly dubious 5-4-1. Tubbs is 7-0 (7), but sorely in need of a testing opponent.

Southpaw welters Parrish Johnson, 150¼, Cincinnati, and Joseph Brown, 147, Middlebrook, Ohio, squared off for a round-and-a-half tilt until the third knockdown of Brown ended proceedings. Johnson is a legitimate 8-1, Brown a spurious 6-1.

A straight right to the midsection downed Tim Brown, 158¾, Bowling Green, Kentucky, for an eight-count at 40 seconds of the first round. Larry Prather, 165, Knoxville, went after a weakened Brown until a right cross stretched Brown at 2:30. Prather is 3-0 (3). Brown suffered his first loss in his third fight.

Gentry Cates, 163, Nashville, and Randy Thomas, 161, Huntsville, Alabama, raced at the opening bell to the center of the ring to commence a brawl. An ill-leveraged yet effectively delivered left hook off a jab put Cates away at 2:45 of the first round. Thomas is 3-2 (1); Cates 1-2.

Anthony Bryant, 147, Nashville, came out of retirement perhaps long enough to send Billy Outlet, 146¾, Nashville, into his own. A four-minute tattooing by Bryant, 7-6, was flagged by a towel from the outgunned Outlet's corner, leaving him at 2-2.

Promoter: Stan Allen
Referees: Jeff Chase, Gary Sessler, Steve Murff
Timekeeper: Jerry Arrington
Judges: Chuck Chellman, Billy Rankin, Dick Eason, Paul Bauman
Attendance: 600 (estimated)
(10-25-89)

NASHVILLE—At the Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel, cruiserweight **Loren "The Boss" Ross** remained undefeated after a third-round TKO over heavyweight **Danny Wofford** in a scheduled eight-rounder.

Ross, 194¼, Nashville, may have spotted Wofford, 215, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 20-plus pounds on the scale, but in the ring he held an edge in every conceivable area: height, reach, speed, and technique.

Wofford pressed his attack early, coming in low with his arms parallel under a tucked-in chin, winging hooks with either hand. Ross was amenable to trading shots and testing his opponent's touted power until a hard left hook midway through the round turned him into a backpedalling believer looking to regroup.

In round two, Ross methodically established his crisp jab, amassing points as well as gauging effective punching distance. He then began to move in to score with deft combinations and get back out unscathed, his right glove glued to his cheek to fend off Wofford's now-predictable left hook counters.

A minute into the third stanza, Ross had solved Wofford like a grammar-school riddle, adding side-to-side movement and new punching angles, topped off with a resounding right uppercut near the bell. So convincing was the shellacking that when Wofford thought better of leaving his stool to contest the fourth round, the excited crowd accepted his decision without the standard cascade of bloodthirsty reproach. Ross now stands 10-0 (7), and he's ready to step up to a better class of fighter than Wofford, 8-5 (6).

"Diamond" Jim MacDonald, 187¾, Flint, Michigan, faced Trent Surratt, 194, Knoxville, in a crossroads eight-round bout, with each fighter coming off a loss. MacDonald appeared to be the better boxer, but was only able to muster his workmanlike jab-and-feint attack in spurts. Then, as if unsure how close to empty his tank was getting, he went head-hunting and got the worst of nearly every exchange. A standing eight-count sealed his fate in the final round of this well-received matchup, with Surratt's well-earned unanimous decision win upping his mark to 8-3 (4); MacDonald is 27-7 (21) and contemplating retirement.

Terry Miller, 183, Spartanburg, used wild swings and varied stances to confuse Larry Prather, 173½, Knoxville, for all of 2:10, when a Prather left hook sent him down for the first of three quick trips to the canvas. The last trip, from a punishing right behind the ear, ended the fray at 2:50. Prather is 4-0 (4); Miller 3-4.

Darwin "Showdog" Johnson, 160, Nashville, spent four frustrating rounds at the end of his chain against pacific Paul Gentry, 152¼, Spartanburg, settling for a lopsided decision that runs his pro log to 4-0 (3). Gentry is now a purported 8-8.

Ken Atkin, 194½, Smyrna, Tennessee, starched Antonio Whiteside, 195, Spartanburg, inside two minutes of the first in a scheduled four-rounder. Atkin is 4-0 (4); Whiteside 3-5.

Promoter/Matchmaker: Stan Allen, Knockout Promotions
Referees: Jeff Chase, Anthony Bryant, Steve Murff, Gary Sessler
Judges: Paul Bauman, Larry Sullivan, Jerry Cook, Richard Eason
Ringside Physician: Dr. Ross Fleming
Timekeeper: Jerry Arrington
Ring Announcer: Michael Atkins
Attendance: 450 (estimated)
(11-21-89)

Jeff Pennig

MEMPHIS-In a 12-rounder for the vacant Southern middleweight title at the New Daisy Theatre, **Lester Yarbrough**, 159½, Jackson, took a split decision over veteran **Knox Brown**, 158, Memphis. The first five rounds saw the two fighters go to war. The battle was even entering the sixth round, and that's when Yarbrough took control.

Yarbrough remained in command until the final two rounds, which saw a gallant comeback by Brown. Brown's effort was admirable, but it came too late. The scorcards read 117-113 and 120-109 for Yarbrough, and 116-115 for Brown.

In a welterweight contest, Chuck Glover stopped J.D. Dobbins, Little Rock, Arkansas, at 2:57 of the third round. Scheduled for six.

Light heavyweight Roy Bedwell, 182, pounded out a four-round unanimous decision over Lowell Merchant, 182, Little Rock.

Lynchburg's Ken Hulsey, 163, scored a third-round TKO over Johnny Simmons in a scheduled four-rounder.

Local fighter Simmie Black, 134, was in fine form as he registered a second-round TKO over L.C. Wright, 140, Meridian, Mississippi. Wright was blasted out at 42 seconds of round two.

The card began with a four-round heavyweight bout. Michael Faulkner, 223, stopped Paul Tynes, 195, at 1:45 of the second round.
(12-5-89)

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VIRGINIA

RICHMOND—At the Arthur Ashe Center, 1984 Olympian **William Galiwango**, 145, Richmond, who reached the second round of the Los Angeles Games as a 139-pound representative of Uganda, passed his most difficult pro test to date by capturing a unanimous decision over clever veteran **Thomas Baker**, 142, Washington, D.C.

Galiwango, who moved from Kampala, Uganda's capital, to Virginia's capital four years ago, raised his record to 15-0-1 (13). He is ranked 13th in the USBA's December ratings.

Baker has troubled a "who's who" of top lightweights and junior welterweights since the early-'80s. He dropped to 12-18-4 (4).

Staying patient, Galiwango controlled rounds one through five, working off his jab and mixing in uppercuts to the body. After the fight, the 26-year-old Ugandan admitted having trouble reaching Baker's elusive head.

Baker, 30, seemed to rally in the second half of the fight—although not in the judges' eyes—gaining Galiwango's respect with several long rights to the body. The official scores were 79-73, 79-73, and 80-72.

"I'm used to this," Baker said. "I felt strong. He [Galiwango] is in good shape. Since he was from Africa, I knew he would be in good condition."

"It was a good fight," said the 26-year-old Ugandan. "I was trying to hurt him with uppercuts."

The card also featured an unusual winner-take-all heavyweight match, the last stage of a tournament that started in November. After six rounds, Virginia Beach's Daren Hayden, 223, was awarded a unanimous decision over Richmond's Curtis Shepherd, 216—and the $10,000 check that came with it. Hayden improved to 2-0 (0). Shepherd slipped to 2-1 (1).

The bout started slowly, with Shepherd more inclined to hold than fight and Hayden unable to do much about it but pound his taller opponent's sides and belly, which he did. By the fourth round, Shepherd's chin became an easy target for Hayden's uppercuts. All three judges gave Hayden every round by 10-9 margins.

To be eligible for the tournament, sponsored by Richmond's Million Dollar Boxing Club, participants had to have no previous pro experience and had to train for at least 90 days under supervision, which was monitored by State Athletic Commissioner Doug Beavers.

"I felt he was wearing down from the body shots," Hayden said. "He was scared of me. He was making gestures and wheezing when I hit him."

Wade Duncan, 141, Baltimore, improved to 4-0-1 with a four-round decision over Ed Malone, 142, Knoxville. Duncan decked Malone with a right in the second. Malone's record dropped to 2-3.

In a sloppy four-round brawl, Max Key, 221, Portsmouth, decisioned Robert Jackson, 210, Newport News. Key improves to 3-0-2. Jackson slips to 7-10-1.

Richmond native Godfrey Johnson, 128, handed Joe Thompson, 127, Knoxville, his first loss, via six-round unanimous decision. After an even first round, Johnson came on strong. Thompson, surprisingly timid, was in trouble at the end of the second and third rounds. His record fell to 3-1 (3). Johnson improved to 6-5-1.

Barry Kirton, 203, Portsmouth, evened up his record at 1-1 with a four-round decision over Butch Kelly, 213, Baltimore. In the opening minute, a looping right nearly floored Kelly, and from that point, Kirton had his way. Kelly suffered a cut over his left eye in the second round, apparently the result of a clash of heads. Kelly dipped to 3-1.

During the opening seconds of their scheduled four-rounder, Mike Stover, 196, Knoxville, was looking at the canvas when he launched an overhand right toward Darryl Griffin, 200, Baltimore. The punch landed anyhow, and Stover was credited with a 20-second win. Referee Chris Wolleson didn't bother counting over a badly dazed Griffin. Stover is 1-1, while Griffin is 0-for-2.

Anuur Green, 138, Newport News, came into the ring barking at Al Mack, 140, Knoxville. When the bell rang, Green kept barking but also showed there was more to his attack. He simply worked over his intimidated opponent. Mack took a standing eight-count early in the second round and was rescued by Wolleson at the 1:20 mark of that frame. Green improves to 5-1. Mack dropped to 2-2.

David "Sugar" Wyatt Jr., 155, Richmond, trapped Calvin Moody, 151, Portsmouth, in a neutral corner in the fifth round and battered him until the referee called Wyatt off at the 2:57 mark. Wyatt had been in control through the first four rounds. His record improved to 7-5. Moody dropped to 3-4.

One-time "Too Tall" Jones opponent Abdul Mohammad, 228, Baltimore, made the mistake of taunting Richmonder Everett Mayo, 221, late in the first round. When Mohammad dropped his hands to his sides as a sign of disrepect, Mayo crashed two straight lefts of his chin to drop Mohammad on his face. The bout was stopped during the count, the official ending at 2:33. Maya improved to 2-1. Mohammad dropped to 3-7-2.

In another quickie, local favorite James "Killer" Miller, 161, Richmond, nearly decapitated Knoxville's Anthony Boyd, 167, with a left hook 15 seconds into their scheduled six-rounder. Boyd fell and it was clear a count wasn't needed. The official ending came at 17 seconds. After several minutes of attention from the ringside physician, Boyd left the ring with assistance. The win boosted Miller to 5-1. Boyd dropped to 4-3.
(12-9-89)

Steve Waldman

BARBADOS

BRIDGETOWN—World-rated local hero **Tyrone Downes**, 130, scored a third-round TKO over **Winston Goodridge**, 122, Guyana. "The weight was just too heavy," said the loser. "Every time one of his body shots landed, I felt it right down to my legs."

Anthony Williams, Barbados, scored a seventh-round knockout over Lyndon Profitt, Guyana.

Percy Bailey, Trinidad, won a six-round decision over Gorden Carew, Guyana.

Middleweight Colin Murry, Guyana, took a decision over Winston Granger, Trinidad.
(10-13-89)

JAMAICA

KINGSTON—**Richard Clarke** decisioned **Louis Chanis** in a flyweight 10-rounder. Clarke, the number one contender, now awaits a mandatory shot at WBC flyweight king Sot Chitalada; "Smoking" Joe Walters earned a unanimous decision over Bernardo Pinango, the former two-time world champion, in a featherweight 10-rounder; Clever Ellis decisioned Edwin Murillo in 10 in lightweight action and Luis Portocarrero kayoed Muhammad Dewes in one of their lightweight fight. Meanwhile, Emilio Villegas decisioned Paul Hanniford in a six-round super featherweight bout.
(11-10-89)

Bruce Williams

MEXICO

MEXICALI—**Rodolfo "Cobra" Gomez** won a 10-round decision over world-rated **Tyrone Jackson**, New York, in a super featherweight battle. Gomez, the Mexican champion, won a top-10 ranking by the WBC and IBF. The winner spoke of giving up his title so that he could go after the world crown, but the Mexican commission assured him that he could hold onto his crown while doing that.

In a 10-round featherweight encounter, Jesus Poll fought to a draw with Mario Gomez.

Welterweight Ramon "Chino" Cardenas knocked out Martin Ochoa in the fifth round of a schudled 10.
(10-27-89)

TIJUANA—**Tommy Valdez** won a 10-round decision over **Alberto "Hungaro" Martinez** in a super bantamweight fight. Valdez, 31-2, was decked in the second round, but rebounded to floor the former Mexican bantamweight king in the fifth. The close battle was considered by many to be the best fight of the year in Mexico.

Rafael "Gato" Morfin TKO'd Juan Carlos "Griego" Salazar in a 10-round super bantamweight fight. The bout was stopped because of a cut in Salazar's mouth. The winner will meet Valdez in January in the semifinals of the 122-pound tournament put together by Guillermo Mayen.

"Bombadero Felix TKO'd Manuel Armenta in the fifth round.

Martin Jacques won a four-round decision over Jaime Munguia in a heavyweight bout.
(10-30-89)

ACAPULCO—**Fidel Avendano** won a 10-round decision over **Felipe "Tiburon" Rojas** in a super lightweight fight. Avendano, who was fined by the commission for coming in over the agreed weight, dropped his opponent in the sixth.

Fernando Santos decisioned Anastasio Sanchez in a 10-round flyweight bout.

Rivelino Palma scored a fourth-round TKO over Rodolfo Lira, mini flyweights.

Antonio Salas won a decision over Julian Pena, bantamweights.

Miguel Angel Rodriguez scored a first-round knockout over fellow featherweight Alejandro Cespedes.

Former fighters Raul "Zurdo" Molina and Saul Montana were honored before the card.
(11-3-89)

MONTERREY—**Francisco "Paco" Ortiz** won a 10-round decision over **Rene Contantino** in a featherweight bout.
(11-3-89)

LOS MOCHIS—**Eduardo "Lalo" Flores** won a decision over **Francisco "Canas" Hernandez** in a 10-round middleweight bout.
(11-3-89)

MEXICO CITY—**Baudillo Hernandez** registered a first-round TKO over **Arnulfo "Toluco" Contreras** in a 10-round bantamweight fight.

Romualdo Gonzalez put Francisco Martinez Laguna away at 1:22 of the seventh round in a lightweight bout. Gonzalez took command in the sixth and had his opponent hurt with a left-right to the chin in the seventh. It was then that referee Jesus Arias Torres stopped the fight. Gonalez is 17-0, and only 19 years old.

Lauro "Cura" Rodriguez won a 10-round decision over Victor Gomez in a battle of featherweights.

Josefino Suarez TKO'd David Palacios in the fifth round of a bantamweight eight-rounder.

Maximilano Llano needed just one round to dispose of Jose Castro in a four-round lightweight bout.
(11-4-89)

JUAREZ—**Pedro "Veneno" de la Cruz** scored a third-round TKO over **David "Coyote" Lopez** in a 10-round welterweight bout. Chihuahua State champion de la Cruz was put down by Lopez in the second with a right to head, and the hurt de la Cruz was saved by the bell. When Lopez went to finish his foe in the third, he dropped his guard and was decked for an eight-count. Despite Lopez' protests, referee Juanito Lazcano waved it over.

Oscar "Mudo" Calzada won a unanimous decision over Manuel "Pitufo" Sapien in an eight-round flyweight bout. Calzada raised his unbeaten mark to 8-0.

Alberto Cepeda scored a TKO in the third round of a scheduled eight over "Kaliman" Perez. The loser was dropped twice in the deciding round.

Ines Alvarado won a unanimous but close six-round decision over Rigo Montes in a super featherweight fight. Alvarado is 6-1.

Rosendo Alvarado fought to a split draw with Victor Raudales in a tight six-round bantamweight battle.

Jose Hernandez TKO'd Manuel Tamayo in the second round of a four-round bantamweight fight. Hernandez was making his pro debut.
(11-10-89)

ACAPULCO—**Augstin Salinas** registered a TKO in the third round over **Miguel Vazquez**. The lightweight bout was set for six rounds.

Alfredo Crucillo TKO'd Valeriano Ojeda in the second round of a six-round flyweight bout.

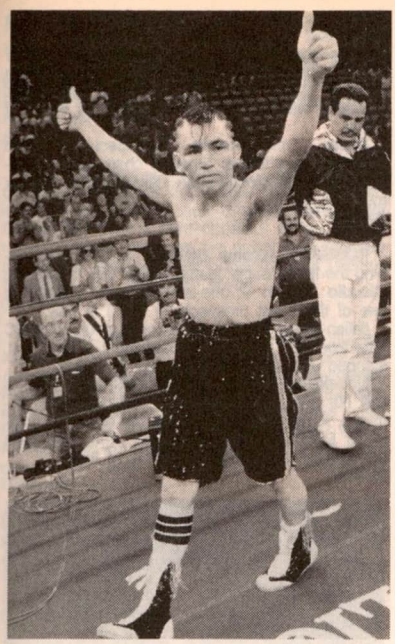
Edelid Perez won a decision over Adolfo Mendez, flyweights.

Special honorees during the card were ex-fighters Geronimo Martinez and Lorenzo Alarcon.
(11-10-89)

NOVOJOA—Marcos "Bang Bang" Pacheco won a unanimous decision over Raul Acosta in a 10-round mini-flyweight bout.
(11-10-89)

MEXICO CITY—**Jorge "Maromero" Paez** fought a four-round tuneup bout. He was dominant in registering a decision over **Fernando "Escorpion" Segura**. The IBF featherweight champion appeared free of charge as part of a card that was paid honor to the great fighters of Mexico's past. The card, however, drew a small crowd.

Alberto Lopez scored a split decision over Raymundo "Battling" Torres Jr. in a 12-round bout for Torres' Mexican super welterweight title. It was a horrible decision, as judge Marco Antonio Rodriguez had it 118-110 for Torres, while Hector Hernandez and Victor Cervantes scored 119-111 and 117-113, respectively, for the winner and new champ. Torres, 33-4-3 (26), lost the title in his second defense. Lopez, the former two-time Mexican



Jorge Paez

welterweight champion, is 31-16 (22). This was the third time that these two have faced each other. Torres beat Lopez twice in 1988.

Pedro de la Cruz retained the Mexican super bantamweight title with a 12th-round stoppage of Jorge Loya. It was Cruz' first title defense. The champion took control in the ninth round. Two rights and a left uppercut put the challenger in a desperate situation. Cruz pounded on his man until referee Jose Medina stepped in and waved it over.

Sulio Sanchez came away with a sixth-round TKO over Ricky Stoner in a 10- round welterweight fight. Stoner dropped the former Mexican champion in the first, but the excellent physical condition of Sanchez paid off. Medina halted the bout with the younger brother of the late Salvador Sanchez pounding Stoner along the ropes.

Rodolfo "Gato" Gonzales scored a 10-round split decision over Warren Williams. The crowd booed the decision in this super welterweight fight. The judges saw it 100-91 and 98-93 for Gonzales, and 97-94 for the Texan Williams.

Mauro "Betillo" Gutierrez scored a ninth-round TKO over Francisco Javier Camacho in a 10-round super featherweight bout. The stoppage was booed as premature.

Joel Luna Zarate registered a third-round TKO over Mario Garcia. The eight-rounder was significant because it featured the nephew of former bantamweight king Carlos Zarate. Joel Zarate is 8-0 (7).
(11-11-89)

TEOPIZCA—Artomio Ruiz knocked out **Luis "Pajaro" Espinosa** in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-rounder. The bout was an easy one for the Mexican flyweight.
(11-12-89)

TIJUANA—Terrence Alli, United States, disposed of **Juan "Bull Terrier" Soberanes** in the seventh round of a scheduled 10-round super lightweight battle. Alli, a former world title challenger, was floored in the first, but got up and a took control in the second. Soberanes had some good moments, but they weren't good enough. Alli put his rival down early in the seventh and finished him off soon later.

Manuel "Mantecas" Medina scored a third-round kayo over Jose "Arana" Mendez in a lightweight fight.

Ramon "Bombadero" Felix kayoed Tony Escobar in the second round of a featherweight battle.

Rafael Vargas knocked out Julio Lopez in round three, bantamweights.
(11-16-89)

LOS MOCHIS—Pedro Rabago TKO'd **Jose Felix Montiel** in the seventh round and took away the Mexican super flyweight title. This was a big upset; the world-ranked Montiel was dethroned in his sixth title defense. Rabago avenged an split decision loss in April by knocking down Montiel five times. A terrible cut on the left eye of the defending champion caused the stoppage.

Martin Quiroz won a decision over Ramon Verdugo, lightweights.

Alejandro Felix Montiel decisioned Jorge Torres, flyweights.

Jorge Luis Lopez kayoed Fernando Lara in the second round.

Lorenzo Lopez decisioned Able Lopez.

Jaime Llanes kayoed Fernando Rodriguez in the third.
(11-17-89)

GUADALAJARA—Gonzalo Villalobos scored a fifth-round technical decision over **Alejandro Sanabria** and retained the Mexican flyweight title. It was Villalobos' first defense. The fight was stopped after an unintentional butt by Sanabria left Villalobos cut on his left eye. Sanabria was knocked down in the fourth and cut on the right eyebrow as well.
(11-17-89)

ACAPULCO—Heavyweight **David "Maceton" Cabrera**, the former Mexican light heavyweight king, knocked out **Jose Garcia** in the fifth round of a scheduled 10-rounder.

Bantamweight Antonio Salas decisioned Angel Vargas in eight.

Mini flyweight action featured Cristoforo Villanueva decisioning Regulo Tule in six, and Miguel Angel Rodrigues decisioning Juan Francisco Ruiz.
(11-17-89)

CUAUTLA—Artemio Manzano, who came out of a year's retirement, kayoed **Jose "Toluco" Herrera** in round four of a scheduled 10-rounder.

Juventino Bonilla decisioned Francisco Aguilar in six rounds, super bantamweights.
(11-17-89)

MERILDA—Lightweight **Javier "Zorrito" Altamirano** earned an upset decision over **Roger Arevalo** in 10 rounds. Altamirano dominated with solid counterpunching and hurt Arevalo in the final round in their lightweight bout.
(11-18-89)

MEXICO CITY—Guillermo "Memo" Cruz TKO'd **Juan Garcia** at 1:35 of round eight, lightweights.

Welterweight Rodolfo Santamaria decisioned Francisco Rosa in a bantamweight six-rounder.

Federico Lara decisioned Oscar Arciniega, four rounds, super flyweights.
(11-18-89)

MAZATLAN—Marco Antonio "Chino" Lizarraga earned a technical decision in round 10 over **Felipe "Matador" Fuentes** to retain the Mexican super lightweight title. Lizarraga, making his second defense, was knocked down in the fourth and sustained a cut from a butt in round one, yet went on to win. The judges scored 89-88 and 88-86 for Lizarraga, and 87-86 for Fuentes.

Super bantamweight David Bustamante decisioned Jose "Latigo" Flores in 10 rounds.

"Macho" Pena TKO'd Sal Fuentes in two rounds, super featherweights.

Middleweight Luis "Tyson" Vazquez knocked out "La Bestia" Noriega in three rounds.

Trinidad Damasco, a lightweight, kayoed Francisco Hernandez in two rounds.

Super bantamweight Maurillo Rocha stopped Antonio Medina in four rounds.
(11-24-89)

GUADALAJARA—Bantamweight **Moises Urbina** TKO'd **Antonio "Cumbia" Sanchez** in 10 rounds.
(11-24-89)

ACAPULCO—Super lightweight **Juan Hernandez** earned a technical draw in five rounds over **Rosenberg "Zurdo" Rosas**.
(11-24-89)

TECOMAN—Super flyweight **Julio Cesar Cardona** kayoed **Raton Veloz** in four round.
(11-24-89)

POZA RICA—Featherweight **Irenio "Picho" Carmona** earned a technical decision in three rounds over **Castulo "Bam Bam" Cruz**.

Middleweight Dennis Kid Doo won by disqualification in round one over Marco Antonio Villasenor.
(11-24-89)

VILLAHERMOSA—Oscar Gallegos TKO'd **Clemente "Camichin" Mendoza**, super feather-

★ THE ★

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weights, in round seven of a scheduled 10-rounder. (11-24-89)

HERMOSILLO—Genaro Leon, former WBO welterweight king, earned a technical draw in round seven against **Miguel Angel Dominguez**, the Mexican champion, in a scheduled 10-rounder. Leon, the hometown favorite, was hurt at the end of round one. But he came back, stronger and quicker, making Dominguez run. A Leon punch cut Dominguez' right eyelid in the sixth round, and a subsequent butt worsened it in round seven. Then the fight was stopped.
(11-24-89)

MEXICO CITY—Otilio Gallegos earned a split decision over **Raul Martinez Mora** in 10 rounds, super bantamweights. The scores were 97-94 and 97-94 for Gallegos, and 97-95 for Mora. Mora is 18-1 (16). Gallegos is 8-3.

Gallegos stayed in close to negate Mora's power. "These things are the fights that give maturity to the fighter more than easy victories," said Mora's manager, Armando Rayon.

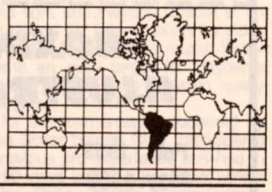
Featherweight Pedro Martinez earned a unanimous 10-round decision over Jose Luis "Torero" Bautista.

Carlos "Bolillo" Gonzalez TKO'd Juan Carlos Lopez, lightweights, round six. Gonzalez hurt Lopez in the third with a solid combination, and the referee halted the bout three rounds later.

Super bantamweight Juan Carlos Ortigoza TKO'd Martin Angeles at 2:23 of round two of a scheduled six-rounder.

Featherweight Carlos Macias decisioned Oscar Granados in four rounds.
(11-25-89)

Bruce Williams



SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

SAN LUIS—Hector Patri earned a unanimous 12-round decision over **Oscar Vergara** to retain the South Amertican junior flyweight title.

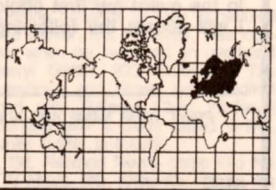
URUGUAY

MONTEVIDEO—Jose Maria Flores TKO'd **Emanuel Brites Camargo** in round seven of a scheduled 12-rounder to retain the Latin America cruiserweight title.

Heavyweight Rodrigo Benech drew with Sergio Merani in 10 rounds.

Jorge Cano drew with Carlos Vener in a middleweight eight-rounder.
(11-4-89)

Bruce Williams



EUROPE

FINLAND

HELSINKI—At the Toolo Sportshall, **Joni Nyman** won a split eight-round decision over tall **Martin Smith** in a less than action-filled welterweight contest. Nyman, from Finland, suffered from a significant reach disadvantage and couldn't catch Smith. The scores were 80-75, 79-76, and 78-79. Nyman rose to 5-l (2).

Hannu Vuorinen dropped Kelvin Mortimer twice with bodypunches before Mortimer retired in his corner after the sixth round. Hometown junior middleweight Vuorinen is 5-0-l (4).

The most impressive winner of the night was junior welterweight Jan Nyholm, Helsinki, 5-0-l (2), who regained the sharpness he had lacked in his latest fights. Tonight's victim was Carl Brazier, England, who felt Nyholm's power and was kayoed in the third round of the scheduled six.

Colombian-born lightweight Jose Tuominen, Helsinki, lost his unbeaten record as crafty Paul Moylett, England, countered his way to clear and unanimous decision in another six-rounder. Tuominen kept the pressure on, but was terribly inaccurate with his swings.

Another hometowner, junior lightweight Jari Gronroos, started well, but the physically stronger Englishman Marcel Herbert began to walk through the Finn's pitty-pat punches in the third round. A badly faded Gronroos was finally pounded to a stoppage defeat in the sixth and final round. He slipped to 2-2-l (0).

Promoter: Tom Sjoberg
(ll-l3-89)

Petri Paimander

GERMANY

BERLIN—Before a capacity crowd of 1,056, 37-year-old **Manfred Jassmann** retained the German heavyweight crown with an eighth-round TKO over **Karl-Heinz Heistermann**, 28. A cut was the deciding factor. There were no knockdowns, no dramatic shifting tides of battle, but it was a good, honest bout of high quality.

With Heistermann suffering from a cut left eyebrow, and with blood flowing from his lacerated right eyelid, the cheif ringside physician stopped the bout without reservation. Jassmann was ahead on points at the time of the stoppage, but the fight was still up for grabs. Cagey veteran Jassman was only aggressive in the final minute of each round.

German southpaw Graciano Rocchigiani, formerly the IBF super middleweight champion, made his debut as a light heavyweight. In a fight that went down like flat ginger ale, the ex-champion stopped American John Keys, 25, in a little less than six minutes of lopsided combat. The Baltimore light heavyweight took five counts. Keys' corner finally and wisely threw in the towel with 2:15 gone in the second round.

At cruiserweight, ex-German amateur champion Markus Bott, 27, scored a first-round kayo over American Andre Crowder, 30. Crowder was counted out with his leg over the bottom rope and the rest of his anatomy deposited on the ring apron. Bott looks like a thoroughbred of the future. He is being guided by former European lightweight champion Rene Weller.

In another cruiserweight battle, the German title changed hands. Ralf Rocchigiani, 26, mercilessly dismantled elder warrior Klaus Winter, 39. In both the first and second rounds the bell saved the defending champion, but in the third, Rocchigiani's right put Winter on the floor. The time of the stoppage was 2:24. Winter was unable to rise for several minutes. Despite the quickie win, Rocchigiani left the ring with assorted bumps under both eyes.

In yet another cruiserweight bout, Yurder Demircan, 27, posted a 10-round decision over Werner Peltz, 37, who was dropped in round eight.

In an action-packed super welterweight six-rounder, German-based soldier Horace Fleary dropped a decision to Andy Marks. After the bout, Fleary took off his gloves and threw them at the feet of referee Kurt Stroer.

Venue: Inter-Continental Hotel
Promoter: Michael Pohl, Jorge Schremmer (Berlin Boxing Team)
Referees/Judges: Herbert Thomser, Kurt Strowe, Norbert Krosch
Doctor: Dr. Von Felson and Dr. Burchhard
Timekeepers: Kurt Holz, H. Obermeyer
MC: Herbert Kranz
Attendance: 1,056
(12-1-89)

Jack Tree

ITALY

FERRARA—Massimiliano Duran, son of former EBU champion Carlos Duran, won the Italian cruiserweight title when he stopped defending champion **Alfredo Cacciatore** in round l0. Duran's brother Alessandro had won the Italian welterweight title a few weeks before, beating Paolo Pesci.

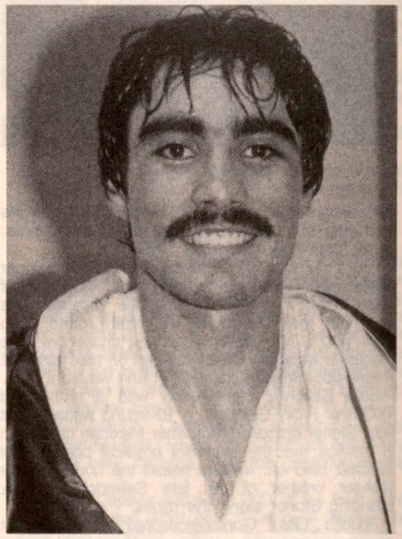
Unheralded Martin Camara, France, upset former WBC International super welterweight champion Giovanni DeMarco, stopping him in round four. DeMarco was the official contender for the EBU crown.

Super middleweight prospect Agostino Cardamone, a former amateur champion, was impressive in outpointing Jean Tjajdo, France, over six rounds.
(ll-4-89)

ROSSANO—Gianni DiNapoli is 24-0 after winning the Italian super featherweight title, outclassing **Claudio Nitti** in l2 one-sided rounds. DiNapoli is one of the finest prospects in years in Italy.

Italian-based Tunesian Kamel Bou-Ali, the WBC International super featherweight champion, stopped Joe Tshikala, Zaire, in round five.

Undefeated flyweight prospect Salvatore Fanni is l3-0 (l0) after kayoing Cecilio Ramirez, Santo Domingo, in round three. Fanni is the official contender for EBU champion Eyup Can, and could have his chance in February, probably in Italy.
(ll-7-89)



Louie Espinoza

RIMINI—Louie Espinoza upset **Maurizio Stecca** and won the WBO featherweight title when Stecca turned his back after taking an eight-count in round seven. Stecca was floored by a left-right combination and claimed nothing was left in him. The referee had to stop the fight and declare Espinoza the new champion. Stecca fell to 35-l, while Espinoza is 35-3-1.

One reason for Stecca's poor performance could be problems making weight. He had to lose two pounds the day of the fight. Stecca was ahead on all three scorecards after the first six rounds. He was in desperate troubles in the second round, but recovered well and took command until round seven.
(ll-ll-89)

PERUGIA—African-born Frenchman **Anaclet Wamba**, the WBC's number-three cruiserweight, surprisingly won the EBU cruiserweight title on a split but well-deserved 12-round decision over defending champion **Angelo Rottoli**, Italy. Two judges scored for Wamba by one and two points, respectively, while the third judge saw Rottoli the winner by one point. Wamba started well and built a big lead before tiring in the last rounds. Rottoli, however, could not take advantage.

EBU middleweight champion Francesco Dell'Aquila looked very impressive in stopping Jean-Pierre Iniama, Zaire, in round six of a non-title affair. They had fought to a draw last year.
(ll-ll-89)

RIMINI—Bantamweight prospect **Fabrizio Cappai** is l0-0 after outclassing brave **Gordon Shaw**, England, in an eight-rounder. Cappai won every round.

Constant loser Judas Clottey, born in Ghana but based in England, won on points after eight rounds over Romolo Casamonica. It was only the second defeat for Casamonica. The first was on points to

Rene Jacquot in a fight for the European super welterweight title.

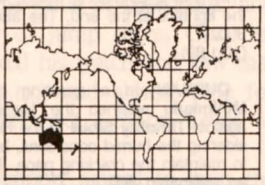
Heavyweight Jimmy DiStolfo, 284, was another loser. He claimed an injury in the first round against David Jules, England, and retired despite protests from his own corner.
(II-13-89)

PERUGIA—Former amateur star **Andrei Oreshkin** became the first Russian to fight as a pro in Italy. He knocked out Uganda heavyweight **George Ajjo** with a right uppercut in the second round. Oreshkin made his pro debut in Russia two months ago and then beat England's Carl Gaffney in London on a first-round kayo.
(II-24-89)

PESCARO—Former world champion **Sumbu Kalambay** only needed 80 seconds to cut and stop American **Reggie Miller** in a middleweight contest. Kalambay hurt Miller with the first punch of the fight and won his second bout since being kayoed in the first round by IBF champion Michael Nunn. Kalambay is the official contender for the EBU crown and could face countryman Francesco Dell'Aquila in January.

World-rated light heavyweights Mwehu Beya, Italy, and Yawe Davis, Uganda, scored wins. Beya stopped durable Frenchman Serge Bolivard in round five, while Davis outclassed Tschibamba Lumbala, France, flooring him four times before the referee stepped in during round four.
(II-29-89)

Kurt Kristiansen



PAN PACIFIC

NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND—Reputedly undefeated after four professional bouts in Australia, former star New Zealand amateur **Raeli Raeli**, l3-6, made an impressive debut for his home fans by demolishing the more experienced **Toss Lelei**, l2-7, in just 45 seconds of round two in a scheduled six-rounder. Thunderous punching saw Lelei down for an eight-count early, and only seconds after, Lelei was saved from further punishment.

Veteran southpaw Peter Armstrong, ll-8, came on strongly after two scrappy rounds to impressively stop Robert Ngawaka, ll-8, in the fourth of a scheduled six-rounder. Throughout the third round, Armstrong was persistent, and in the fourth, he gave a fine display of precise punching to drop Ngawaka with a left to the jaw. After the compulsory eight-count, Ngawaka was pumelled with no reply, at which point the referee declared Armstrong the TKO victor at the 2:22 mark.

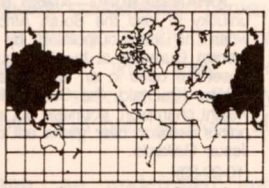
Amateur bouts made up the rest of this tourney.

Site: Ponsonby Gluepot Hotel

Promoters: John Lloyd, Lindsay Christiansen

Attendance: 500
(II-7-89)

Johnny Hanks



THE ORIENT

JAPAN

TOKYO—Japanese welterweight champion **Hiroyuki Yoshino**, 148, engaged in a non-title 10-rounder and emerged as a TKO winner over Filipino **Mon Desoloc**, 148, at the end of the third round. Desoloc, a tall opponent, was unable to come out for the fourth round, as he was bleeding badly from a gash over the left eyebrow. Yoshino, the WBC's number-20 contender, has registered 10 consecutive stoppages and improved his record to 16-3-1 (13). Desoloc fell to 28-13-2 (8).

In a supporting 10, Hidenobu Sasaki, formerly rated at the top of the JBC's middleweight ratings, 165, outjabbed rough Filipino Arman Pecar, 165, over 10 rounds.
(11-7-89)

TOKYO—Unbeaten lefty prospect **Takashi Matsuo**, 118½, extended his record to 10-0 (5), as he defeated Filipino **Alan Tanaka**, 119¼, by unanimous decision over eight rounds. Matsuo had been training in Korea for 90 days, and this was his second showing after his return to Japan. He controlled almost all the rounds with his aggressive performance.
(10-30-89)

TOKYO—Elongated flyweight **Tomoki Morikawa**, the JBC's number-six contender at 112, was jeered badly as he failed to finish Filipino **Sammy Tyson**, a very short switch-hitter, 110¼, despite onesided action. But Morikawa was a points winner by a shutout decision (100-92, 100-94, and 100-93). Morikawa, who had better master how to follow up effectively, is 11-3-1 (8). Tyson fell to 13-5-3 (5).

Former OPBF junior welterweight champion Eun Shik Kim, 140, was traded by Japan's Kyoei Club, and appeared for the first time here, demolishing Tadashi Domoto, 139, at 1:09 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Kim, fighting under the Japanese nom-de-guerre "Kazuo Terasawa," flattened Domoto with a fine three-punch combination. The winner is 19-2 (17). Domoto is 6-3-1 (6).
(11-6-89)

OSAKA—In an eliminator to decide the national middleweight champion, **Taketo Saijo**, 156, seized the crown via decision over **Satoshi Yokozaki**, 157, over 10 rounds.

In the semi-final 10, Shinji Shiomi, a former kemp (a kind of karate) expert, 150, knocked out Eiju Otake, 154, at 2:05 of the fourth round.
(11-6-89)

TOKYO—Lanky lefty **Leopard Tamakuma**, the WBC's number-five ranked flyweight, 115, scored an impressive kayo over **Rex Rapiso**, 115, at 1:15 of the third session in a scheduled 10. Having lost a hairline nod to Yong Kang Kim in his quest for the WBC throne last March, Tamakuma has registered a couple of kayos in fine fashion. The winner boosted his log to 25-4 (11).

In the semi-final, Japanese bantamweight boss Crusher Miura, 118, was a bit befuddled by the defensive style of Jun Yonesaka, 117¼, but took a unanimous nod (scores of 100-95, 99-95, and 99-97) to retain his throne over 10 rounds. Miura, a stiff but hard-punching fighter, is 15-4-1 (10). Yonesaka fell to 8-5-1 (3).
(11-11-89)

HIROSHIMA—OPBF junior middleweight champion **Carlos Elliott**, 152¾, didn't look sharp, but proved too ringwise and fast for Korean titlist **Sang Do Chung**, 153¼, winning a unanimous decision over 12 rounds. It was the second defense of Elliott, the WBA's top contender. The American Elliott, living in Japan with a Japanese wife, is 24-2 (21). Chung fell to 17-5-2 (3).
(11-15-89)

OKINAWA—**Nobuaki Hiranaka**, the WBA's number-two ranked junior welterweight, 143, returned to ring action for the first time since his title fight loss to WBA champion Juan Martin Coggi and chalked up a TKO over Filipino **Boy Masuay**, 140, at 2:10 of the eighth round in a scheduled 10. Hiranaka, an aggressive puncher, is 18-1 (16).

Former Japanese strawweight champion Yasuo Yogi, 108, outscored Max Forrosuelo, a much taller Filipino, 108, over 10 rounds.
(11-23-89)

NAGOYA—**Kiyoshi Hatanaka**, the WBA's fourth-ranked bantamweight, 120, made short work of Thai **Somboonyod Sinsamuang**, 120, finishing him at 1:20 of the second round of a scheduled 10. Hatanaka, an elongated boxer, is 18-1-1 (12).
(11-25-89)

SOUTH KOREA

TAEGU—OPBF mini flyweight champion **Hi Yong Choi**, 104½, successfully kept the crown by winning a unanimous decision (scores of 119-112, 120-112, and 118-114) over **Armando Chiba Ternoria**, a Japanese-based Filipino, 105, over 12 rounds.

Young Kyun Park, 125¼, became the new Korean featherweight champ with a unanimous nod over top contender Yong Man Chun, 127, in a 10-round eliminator. Park is 13-1-1 (7). Chun dipped to 11-6-1 (4).
(10-29-89)

CHUMCHON—In another OPBF title bout, **Byong Yong Min**, 175, acquired the vacant light heavyweight throne by disposing of New Zealand's **Fred Toleafoa**, 174½, at 58 seconds of the fourth session in a scheduled 12. The title had been vacated by Jeff Harding, who became the WBC champion. It was lefty Min's second pro fight. He is 2-0 (2). The loser fell to 9-1 (8).

Ki Youn Song, 156¼, outpointed Sung In Lee, the KBC's number-two middleweight contender, over 10 rounds. The upset winner is 2-2-2 (1). Lee dropped to 12-4 (8).
(10-29-89)

ULSAN—**Sang Un Lee**, the Korean Commission's number-three welterweight, 149, tested his first setback, losing a unanimous nod to **Yong Kang Chang**, 148½, over 10 rounds. Lee fell to 5-1 (4). Chang, the KBC's number-four welterweight, is 4-1-2 (3).
(11-5-89)

SEOUL—Unbeaten **Yong Hoon Lee**, the WBA's number-six bantamweight, 120¼, ran his unblemished log to 15-0 (9) by disposing of Thai **Thantavan Narphataya**, 119¾, at 2:20 of the fifth session in a scheduled 10. Lee caught the Thai with a straight right and sent him sprawling to the deck in the fatal round. Narphataya struggled to his feet, but returned to the canvas after absorbing one of Lee's solid left hooks. The loser fell to 14-3 (7).
(11-18-89)

KUNSAN—Ex-WBA bantamweight champion **Sung Kil Moon**, 115¾, returned to the ring and deflated Filipino **Romeo Opriasa**, 116¾, with a wicked body shot at 2:23 of the fifth round in a scheduled 10. Moon, a brutal slugger, is 10-1 (9). But he didn't look sharp and missed too many punches before the kayo. Opriasa is 17-4-3 (7).

Nam Hoon Cha, 108, became the new Korean junior flyweight champ via unanimous decision over Kun Soo Yuh, 107¾, in a 10-round eliminator. Cha is 13-1 (4). Yuh is 11-2 (6).
(11-19-89)

PUSAN—Former world champions met in a eliminator to decide the next challenger to WBC flyweight kingpin Sot Chitalada. **Yul Woo Lee**, 114¼, scored a knockdown midway through the eighth round and was awarded a hairline decision over **Yong Kang Kim**, 114¼, in 10. The fight was a dull affair, as the flyweights repeatedly clinched and respected each other's big punches. Kim should have utilized his vaunted footwork and sharp counterpunching. And Lee should have punched more positively to exhibit his superior power. The winner is 19-2 (7).

Yun Sup Park, the Korean junior featherweight champion, 122, barely kept the national title, as he was held to a draw by Ki Jun Kim, 122, over 10 rounds. Kim pressed the action, but Park floored the aggressive challenger. Park, a former amateur star, is 3-0-1 (3). Lee, the WBA's number-10 contender, as well as the prefight favorite, is 12-0-1 (9).

In an eliminator to decide a new Korean junior bantamweight champion, Byung Kwan Chung, 114¾, displayed his ring experience in stopping Myung Ho Yang, 115, at 2:57 of the third round in a scheduled 10. Chung is 17-6-3 (6). Yang fell to 11-6 (6).
(11-25-89)

THAILAND

BANGKOK—**Petchthai Chuvatana**, the Thai Commission's number-two mini flyweight, ran his unbeaten log to 4-0 (4) by finishing **Chuanchai Sithfakamron** in the second round of a scheduled six.
(10-22-89)

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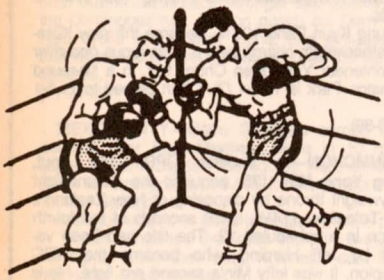

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BANGKOK—Pronchai Boonthavee, the TBC's number-four junior flyweight, chalked up a TKO victory over **Rungsak Sorthanikul** in the third session of a scheduled six. The winner is 13-5 (6).
(10-25-89)

BANGKOK—Singprasert Kittikasem, ranked at the top of the mini flyweight division by the TBC, outpointed **Pinnares Chorwaikul** in six rounds. The unbeaten winner is 8-0 (5).
(10-31-89)

BANGKOK—Torsak Osodsapha Pongsupa, the WBC's number-25 super flyweight, outscored **Rithchai Galaxy**, the TBC's top bantamweight contender, over eight rounds. Pongsupa is 8-2 (7).
(11-2-89)

BANGKOK—Thanomsak Sithboabay, the WBA and WBC top contenter in the 115-pound class, defeated Filipino **Ric Bajelot** over eight rounds. The winner is 27-1 (13). He is gunning for WBC champion Nana Konadu, who recently dethroned Mexican Gilberto Roman.
(11-5-89)

SAMUTPRAKARN—Noree Jockygym, the Thai junior featherweight champ, outpointed ex-Filipino titlist **Little Bangoyan** over 10 rounds. Jockygym is 27-8-1 (11).
(11-5-89)

PHILIPPINES

MAMBAJAO—Filipino junior flyweight champion **Bert Refugio**, 108, kept his national throne via majority decision (scores of 117-115, 117-112, and 116-116) over **Fernando Baja**, 108, over 12 rounds. Refugio stretched his mark to 13-1-1 (10). He is ranked number-22 by the WBC in the 108-pound class. Baja, who had won 11 straight figths, fell to 15-3-2 (6).
(10-22-89)

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—National bantamweight champion **Loremer Pontino**, 118, scored an eighth-round TKO over **Mario Sumalinog**, 117½, to retain the title in a scheduled 12-rounder. Pontino, 23, is 35-7-1 (29). Sumalinog fell to 23-12-4 (12).
(10-21-89)

DIGOS—Veteran campaigner **Edgar Apatan**, 125, the GAB's number-seven junior featherweight contender, dropped a unanimous decision to unheralded **Roger Vicera**, 172, over 10 rounds. The upset winner is 12-7-3 (3). Apatan fell to 36-6-5 (13).
(10-14-89)

MAGALLANES—Boy Romero, the GAB's number-five junior welterweight, 140, and **Ric Dolotallas**, the number-six contender, 140, fought to a split draw over 10 rounds. Just 20 days before, they had faced each other, with Dolotallas taking a majority decision.
(10-19-89)

GIGOOG CITY—Roger Quisaba, the Philippines' top junior lightweight, 130, pounded out a unanimous decision over **Jun Placencia**, 130, over 10 rounds.
(10-20-89)

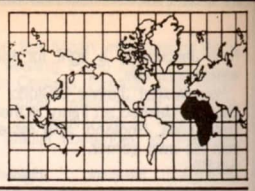
TAGUM—Rising prospect **Nick Ampong**, 120, defeated ex-Filipino champ **Ruben de la Cruz**, 120, via majority nod in 10 rounds. Ampong is 24-7-8 (10).
(10-21-89)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Comebacking **Sonny Vidal**, 110, was TKO'd by veteran trialhorse **Al Tan Lee**, 111, at 1:45 of the eighth round in a scheduled 10.
(10-21-89)

PINAMALAYAN—Cris Saguid, the GAB's number-two featherweight, dropped ex-WBC International champion **Joe Hiyas**, 128, and won a unanimous decision (scores of 98-95, 98-97, and 100-97) over 10 rounds. Saguid, 25, is 21-3-1 (11). Hiyas, 27, is 38-18-12 (6).
(10-28-89)

BAGUIO—Filipino lightweight champion **Bernabe Aliping**, 133¾, sent down Thai **Eak Donjadee**, 131, in the fourth round and copped a one-sided decision over 10 rounds.
(10-28-89)

Joe Koizumi



AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

KUTWANLONG—Abel Mbotho scored a second-round kayo over **Alexis Matsoso** in a junior welterweight clash. The attendance was an estimated 300.
(10-1-89)

EAST LONDON—Thembile Lubisi fought gallantly to stop **Sexon Ngqayimbana** in the 10th round of their bout for the vacant Cape featherweight title at the Orient Theatre. Ngqayimbana scored well in the first five rounds, but allowed Lubisi to take the initiative late in the bout.

Cape junior flyweight champion Wele Maqolo successfully defended the title when he stopped Zolile Mbityi in the seventh round.
(10-1-89)

WELKOM—Alfred Mngomezulu outpointed **Andrew Molathoe** over eight rounds in the junior featherweight division at the Phillip Smit Centre. This was a ding-dong battle, with little separating the fighters at the end. The attendance was about 300.
(10-1-89)

DURBAN—In a gruelling 10-rounder, **Patrick Mthimkulu** retained the Natal welterweight title against **Timothy Sibisi** at the Red Cross Hall. Considering the humid conditions, both fighters did well to maintain the cracking pace. The attendance was an estimated 800.
(10-15-89)

JOHANNESBURG—In an exciting, hard-fought 10-rounder, **Jacob Matlala** retained the Transvaal flyweight title via unanimous decision against **Daniel Ward** at the Portuguese Hall. This was the second meeting between the two, and once again it was the more experienced Matlala who emerged the victor.

In the main supporting bout, Weaver Qwabe scored an eight-round points win over Bokkie Buys, junior heavyweights.
(10-15-89)

UITENHAGE—South African junior flyweight champion **Vuyani Nene** retained the title with a 12-round points win over **Daniel Matlokotsi** at the Indoor Sports Centre. Even though Nene clearly won, he looked shaky after barely coming in at the division limit.

In the chief supporting bout, Mpisekhaya Mbaduli scored an eight-round points decision over Zabdisile Dyonashe, lightweights.
(10-16-89)

SPRINGS—Ditau Molefyane became the new South African junior lightweight champion when he completely outclassed **Welile Vumsindo** and scored an 11th-round kayo in their scheduled 12-rounder at the Springs Indoor Centre. The fighters were competing for the title vacated by Dingaan Thobela. The attendance was an estimated 1,000.
(10-23-89)

JOHANNESBURG—Aladin Stevens was rather unlucky to lose the South African lightweight title when he was outpointed by young challenger **Abram Gumede** at the Portuguese Hall. Gumede upset the odds in an exciting and gruelling fight.

Nika Khumalo, the South African junior welterweight champion, pounded out a lopsided 10-round points decision over game but outclassed Mexican Jesus Gallardo.
(10-29-89)

EMPANGENI—After a mauling and brawling affair, **John Diamini** emerged a 10-rounds points winner over **Eric Ngomezulu** to win the vacant Nayal light heavyweight title. The attendance was an estimated 800.
(11-4-89)

Ron Jackson

IN THIS CORNER

JOHN DAVENPORT

(Trainer)

By Joseph C. Tintle

As John Davenport climbed the steps that lead to the second-floor of the Henry Cooper boxing gymnasium in London, he heard the thud of gloved fists, the rattle of speedbags, and the soft whir of jump ropes. Once inside, he checked his watch and saw that it was 2:15 p.m., and almost time for heavyweight prospect Lennox Lewis to arrive.

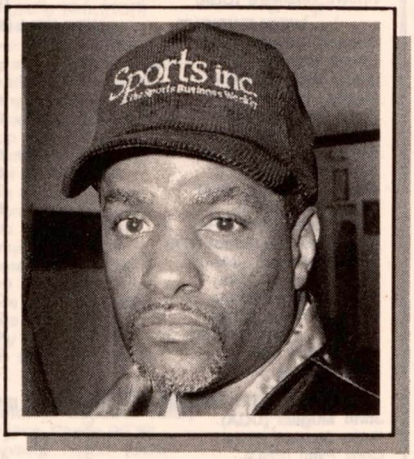
When Davenport agreed to train the 1988 Olympic super heavyweight gold medalist, Lewis didn't know the meaning of punctuality. He'd show up 15 minutes late for a training session without apology. So Davenport issued an edict. "There are two ways to do anything," he told Lewis in a strident voice. "The wrong way and *my* way."

Now Davenport sets his watch by Lewis' arrival.

"John is a strict disciplinarian," said Lewis, who is 5-0, "and that's one of the reasons I wanted him to train me. I didn't want a trainer who'd take it easy on me because I'd won a gold medal."

Davenport, 48, has never taken it easy on anyone. For 22 years, he spent night after night at the Second Street Youth Center in his hometown of Plainfield, New Jersey, teaching the fundamentals of boxing to amateurs. (During the day, he worked in a chemical plant.) And if a youngster didn't concentrate, Davenport shouted at him so loudly that the other fighters stopped what they were doing. Then he'd shoot them an icy stare and bellow, "Get back to work, all of you."

Tracy Spann, an undefeated and world-rated lightweight who advanced through the amateur ranks with Davenport and won his first 17 pro bouts with the trainer in his corner, called Davenport a taskmaster.



"In the gym there was no joking around," Spann said. "If he caught you chewing gum, he'd make you run several flights of stairs. Over and over. If you arrived late, he wouldn't work with you that night. If you missed a session, he'd call you up and tell you to get your butt back in the gym. He was tough, but he taught me—and all of us for that matter—everything we know."

When English manager Frank Maloney and the Levitt Group, the financial backers of Lewis, were searching for a trainer to handle their prize fighter, they considered Angelo Dundee, Teddy Atlas, and Jimmy Ellis. But Lewis wanted someone who could give him undivided attention. Dundee, Atlas, and Ellis were working with other boxers.

Then Davenport's name came up. In boxing since 1967, he had developed a solid reputation. From 1975 through 1985, his amateur teams captured seven New Jersey Golden Gloves titles, with many of his fighters advancing to the nationals. In 1985, he also was a coach with the United States national boxing team.

When the offer came to train Lewis, Davenport hesitated. "At the time," he said, "I was seriously considering getting out of the sport altogether."

But Albert "Steel" Mills, a former middleweight from Plainfield, and Zayid Muhammad, an assistant trainer during Davenport's amateur days, persuaded their friend to accept the position.

"I listened to everything they had to say," Davenport said. "In essence, their message was that I'd given enough time to amateur fighters in the community and now it was time to do something for myself. So I did."

Davenport signed a three-year contract with the Levitt Group, which also provided him with a new condominium. "I'm happy doing what I want to do," he said. "And they're letting me do things my way, so I have no complaints."

But he had a litany of beefs just before he left for England. It was Davenport who taught former junior lightweight contender Harold Knight how to box. He also started top-10 welterweight Glenwood Brown and Spann, both of whom are now world ranked.

"I even handled them as pros for a while," Davenport said. "Then different factions came between us. And, after a while, I got pretty much sick and tired of dealing with managers who talked behind my back and poisoned the minds of my fighters into leaving me.

"And then certain fighters' girlfriends started telling them that they were old enough to make their own decisions about breaking curfew so they could go out and have some fun. Believe me, when it comes down to choosing between what a trainer says and what a fighter's girlfriend says, the girlfriend—who knows nothing about boxing—always prevails.

"Fighters' girlfriends and sleazy managers are part of the American boxing scene I won't miss." □

WBC WBA IBF
RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike Tyson (USA)	C	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	1	1
Razor Ruddock (USA)	2	2	4
James Douglas (USA)	3	4	2
Michael Dokes (USA)	4	3	5
Orlin Norris (USA)	5	7	11
Gary Mason (ENG)	6	6	7
Alex Stewart (JAM)	7	5	8
Renaldo Snipes (USA)	8	10	9
Adilson Rodrigues (BRA)	9	12	-
Jose Ribalta (USA)	10	8	10
Carl Williams (USA)	11	9	3
Frank Bruno (ENG)	12	11	6

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	C	-	-
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	1	6	9
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	2	2	5
Nate Miller (USA)	3	3	4
Jose Flores (URU)	4	-	12
Daniel Netto (ARG)	5	9	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	6	C	-
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	7	1	-
Johnny Nelson (ENG)	8	-	-
Angelo Rottoli (IT)	9	11	11
Magna Havnaa (NOR)	10	-	-
Sammy Reeson (ENG)	16	12	-
Glenn McCrory (ENG)	-	-	C
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	-	4	1
Craig Bodzianowski (USA)	20	10	-
Patrick Lumumba (KEN)	23	-	2
Leroy Murphy (USA)	-	-	6
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	25	11	10
Siza Makhathini (SA)	-	-	3
Richard Mason (USA)	27	-	7
James Warring (USA)	-	5	8
Jose Burlon (URU)	-	7	-
John Emmen (HOL)	18	8	-

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Dennis Andries (ENG)	1	1	-
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	2	3	5
Mario Melo (ARG)	3	6	-
Joe Lasisi (NIG)	4	11	4
Mike Sedillo (USA)	5	7	6
Leslie Stewart (TRI)	6	-	-
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	7	2	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	8	4	2
Yawe Davis (UGA)	9	-	-
Tom Collins (ENG)	10	-	-
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	11	-	-
James Kinchen (USA)	12	-	9
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Uriah Grant (JAM)	13	8	7
Jean-Marie Emebe (FRA)	15	9	-
Alex Blanchard (HOL)	-	10	-
Mike Peak (USA)	-	5	-
Tony Willis (USA)	14	12	8
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Rodrigo Benech (URU)	17	-	3
Frankie Swindell (USA)	-	-	1
Freddy Delgado (PR)	-	-	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ray Leonard (USA)	C	-	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	1	-	-
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	2	1	4
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	3	5	-
Don Lee (USA)	4	12	-
Tony Byrd (USA)	5	4	-
Frank Tate (USA)	6	6	2
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	7	-	-
Paul Muyodi (UGA)	8	-	-
Frankie Minton (USA)	9	-	-
Rod Carr (AUSTRL)	10	-	6
Ron Essett (USA)	13	7	-
Carlos Antunes (BRA)	15	-	7
Victor Cordova (PAN)	20	2	-
Fulgencio Obelmejias (VEN)	13	8	-
Yoshiaki Tajima (JAP)	-	9	-
Inchul Baek (KOR)	-	C	-
Paul Whittaker (USA)	-	10	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	-	3	5
Lindell Holmes (USA)	-	-	1
Thulani Malingo (USA)	-	-	3
Fermin Chirino (VEN)	-	-	8
Tyrone Frazier (USA)	25	-	9
Vincent Boulware (USA)	-	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roberto Duran (PAN)	C	-	-
Lindell Holmes (USA)	1	2	-
Julian Jackson (USA)	2	-	-
Michael Watson (ENG)	3	1	1
Herol Graham (ENG)	4	3	3
Michael Olajide (CAN)	5	11	-
Steve Collins (USA)	6	5	6
Iran Barkley (USA)	7	7	5
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	8	4	7
Nigel Benn (ENG)	9	6	8
Frank Winterstein (FRA)	10	8	10
Francesco Dell'Aquilla (ITA)	16	9	-
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	-
Tony Thornton (USA)	15	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	C
Matthew Hilton (CAN)	14	-	2
Reginald Johnson (USA)	-	-	4
Ron Collins (USA)	17	-	9
Chris Eubank (ENG)	13	10	-

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
John Mugabi (UGA)	C	-	-
Rene Jacquot (FRA)	1	10	-
Chris Pyatt (ENG)	2	3	4
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	3	4	-
Lorenzo Garcia (ARG)	4	12	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	5	7	1
Terry Norris (USA)	6	6	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	-	3
Miguel Arroyo (ARG)	8	-	8
Carlos Elliot (JAP)	9	1	12
Jun Sok Hwang (KOR)	10	2	-
Julian Jackson (VI)	-	C	-
Donald Curry (USA)	27	11	7
Horacio Perez (COL)	21	8	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	28	5	-
Troy Wortham (USA)	19	9	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Robert Hines (USA)	24	-	2
Arthur Serwano (USA)	17	-	5
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	25	-	6
Davey Hilton (CAN)	18	-	9
Karama Leota (USA)	-	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marlon Starling (USA)	C	-	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	1	3	-
Lloyd Honeyghan (ENG)	2	-	4
Fujio Ozaki (JAP)	3	1	-
James McGirt (USA)	4	6	2
Aaron Davis (USA)	5	8	5
Tyrone Trice (USA)	6	7	1
Glenwood Brown (USA)	7	4	8
Nino LaRocca (ITA)	8	-	7
Antoine Fernandez (FRA)	9	11	12
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	10	12	-
Mark Breland (USA)	-	C	-
Simon Brown (USA)	-	-	C
Luis Garcia (VEN)	12	2	-
Manning Galloway (USA)	18	-	3
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	19	5	11
Jorge Bracamonte (ARG)	17	10	-
Vincent Pettway (USA)	-	-	6
Jose Bermudez (COL)	22	9	-
Tommy Ayers (USA)	-	-	9
Kirkland Laing (ENG)	21	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Kyungduk Ahn (KOR)	1	1	-
Roger Mayweather (USA)	2	-	-
Sammy Fuentes (PR)	3	-	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	4	8	2
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	5	11	12
Mauricio Rodriguez (USA)	6	4	10
Rafael Pineda (COL)	7	5	5
Mike Johnson (USA)	8	7	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	9	10	8
Ras-I-Bramble (USA)	10	9	1
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	-	C	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	-	C
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	14	2	-
Jose Luis Ramirez (MEX)	-	3	-
Frankie Randall (USA)	-	-	3
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	13	6	11
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	15	-	6
Courtney Hooper (USA)	26	-	4
Terrence Alli (USA)	16	-	7
John Montes (USA)	22	-	9

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	-	C
Chilsung Chun (KOR)	1	3	-
Primo Ramos (MEX)	2	5	6
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	3	-	1
Poli Diaz (SPA)	4	4	4
Tracy Spann (USA)	5	-	2
Jose Luis Ramirez (MEX)	6	-	-
David Gonzales (USA)	7	6	8
Darryl Tyson (USA)	8	-	11
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	9	11	10
Anthony Jones (USA)	10	9	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	-	1	-
John Duplessis (USA)	22	8	9
Greg Haugen (USA)	12	-	3
Tae Jin Moon (KOR)	15	7	-
Juan Nazario (PR)	14	2	12
Louie Lomeli (USA)	17	10	5
William Rojas (VEN)	-	12	7

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Mario Martinez (MEX)	1	-	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	2	-	-
Lupe Suarez (USA)	3	-	3
Tony Lopez (USA)	4	8	4
Rocky Lockridge (USA)	5	9	5
Jim McDonnell (ENG)	6	7	11
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	7	5	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	8	3	7
Rodolfo Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
John Sichula (ZAM)	10	-	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	11	-	1
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	C	-
John Molina (USA)	-	-	C
John Doherty (IRE)	27	4	-
Anibal Nieves (VEN)	-	6	-
Jackie Beard (USA)	-	1	-
Renato Cornett (AUST)	20	-	6
Renaldo Carter (USA)	-	2	9
Henky Gun (INDO)	17	10	-
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	22	-	2
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	14	-	8
Manuel Batista (DR)	-	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	1	-	-
Chanmok Park (KOR)	2	1	-
Paul Hodkinson (ENG)	3	4	2
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	4	2	1
Rafael Zuniga (COL)	5	7	-
Troy Dorsey (USA)	6	10	6
Sidney Dal Rovere (BRA)	7	-	-
Takeyuki Akagi (JAP)	8	12	-
Jojo Cayson (PHIL)	9	11	12
Javier Marquez (MEX)	10	-	-
Stevie Cruz (USA)	12	-	4
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	C	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	-	C
Ryutaro Ueda (JAP)	25	3	-

WBC as of November
WBA as of December
IBF as of December

Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	24	6	-
Myron Taylor (USA)	19	-	3
Alfred Rangel (USA)	20	-	5
Harold Rhodes (USA)	13	-	7
Steve McCrory (USA)	-	-	8
Tracy Patterson (USA)	-	-	9
Jose Lopez (ARG)	-	-	10
Jorge Romero (MEX)	30	8	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	15	9	-

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Seung Hoon Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	2	5	11
Jesus Salud (USA)	3	7	9
Paul Banke (USA)	4	6	-
Naoto Takahashi (JAP)	5	3	10
Steve McCrory (USA)	6	-	-
Chanyoung Park (KOR)	7	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	8	-	-
Jesse Benavides (USA)	9	-	5
Luis Mendoza (COL)	10	1	-
Juan Jose Estrada (MEX)	-	C	-
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	-	-	C
Jose Sanabria (VEN)	14	2	2
Ruben Palacios (COL)	18	4	-
Carlos Uribe (CHIL)	12	8	-
Lee Ki Yun (KOR)	-	9	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	1
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	3
Kelvin Seabrooks (USA)	-	-	4
Ramon Cruz (PR)	-	-	8
Fransie Badenhorst (SA)	-	-	7
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	6
Ruben Palacios (COL)	18	4	-
Park Yun Sup (KOR)	-	10	-

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Raul Perez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hurley Snead (USA)	1	1	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	2	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	3	7	8
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	4	5	2
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	5	6	-
Changuito Carmona (MEX)	6	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	7	10	-
Joao Cardosa (BRA)	8	12	-
Gaby Canizales (USA)	9	-	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	10	-	5
Luisito Espinosa (PHI)	-	C	-
Kaokor Galaxy (THAI)	13	4	12
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Eddie Rangel (USA)	-	-	4
Billy Hardy (ENG)	17	8	1
Ray Minus (BAH)	15	-	6
Duke McKenzie (ENG)	18	-	3
Alessandro DeSantis (ITA)	-	-	7
Wongso Indrajit (INDO)	-	-	9
Javier Leon (MEX)	-	-	10
Cesar Salas (VEN)	-	3	-
Yonghoon Lee (KOR)	11	9	-

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nana Konadu (GHA)	C	-	-
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (THAI)	1	1	-
Shunichi Nakajima (JAP)	2	4	-
Gilberto Roman (MEX)	3	6	
Sungkil Moon (KOR)	4	2	-
Ray Medel (USA)	5	9	9
Jose Felix Montiel (MEX)	6	-	-
Elly Pical (INDO)	7	-	4
Santos Laciar (ARG)	8	7	-
Cobra Ari Blanca (PHIL)	9	5	1
Cesar Polanco (DR)	10	10	-
Juan Polo (COL)	-	-	C
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	-	8	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	21	-	2
Ernesto Ford (PAN)	16	3	-
Peter Mitrevski (AUSTRL)	-	-	5
Adrian Roman (ARG)	22	-	6
Carlos Mercado (COL)	12	12	7
Jaja Shibali (SA)	-	-	8
Sitoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	C	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	1	-	2
Yongkang Kim (KOR)	2	8	-
Yulwoo Lee (KOR)	3	4	-
Javier Lucas (MEX)	4	5	6
Leopard Tamakuma (JAP)	5	2	11
Claudemir Dias (BRA)	6	-	-
Romy Navarette (PHIL)	7	-	10
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	8	11	12
Eyup Can (TURK)	9	-	9
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	10	7	1
Fidel Bassa (ARG)	12	1	5
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	-	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	23	6	-
Julio Gudino (PAN)	-	9	-
Yunun Chin (KOR)	14	10	-
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	-	C	-
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	16	-	4
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Louis Curtis (USA)	-	-	3
Tony DeLuca (USA)	-	-	7
Den Chuvatana (THAI)	-	-	8

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Jungkoo Chang (KOR)	1	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	2	2	1
Luis Monzote (CUBA)	3	7	-
Ebo Danquah (GHA)	4	-	-
Jeung Keum Lim (JAP)	5	3	-
Ali Galvez (CHI)	6	12	-
Rey Hernandez (MEX)	7	-	-
Jorge Cano (MEX)	8	-	-
Sunyong Chung (KOR)	9	-	-
Katzumi Komiyama (JAP)	10	8	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Leo Gamez (VEN)	14	1	8
Leon Salazar (PAN)	18	4	7
Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI)	-	5	-
Kimico Hirano (JAP)	22	6	-
Hisashi Tokushima (JAP)	15	9	-
Jose Lagos (ARG)	-	10	-
Muangshai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	C
Tacy Macalos (PHIL)	-	-	3
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	-	-	4
Gonzalo Villalobos (MEX)	-	-	5
Javier Diaz (MEX)	-	-	6
Mario DeMarco (ARG)	-	-	9
Jeong Jae Lee (KOR)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeum Hwan Choi (KOR)	C	-	-
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	10	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	2	2	1
Napa Kiatwanchai (THA)	3	-	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	4	-	3
Hector Patri (ARG)	5	-	-
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	6	-	4
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	7	1	-
Hiyong Choi (KOR)	8	3	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	9	4	10
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	10	-	-
Samjoong Lee (KOR)	11	7	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Joo Sup Shin (KOR)	-	5	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	28	6	-
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	14	8	-
Nico Thomas (INDO)	21	9	6
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	-	-	C
Luis Monzote (USA)	-	-	2
Francisco Montiel (MEX)	-	-	5
Samuth Sithnarvepol (THAI)	22	-	7
Masaharu Kawakami (JAP)	-	-	8
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	17	-	9

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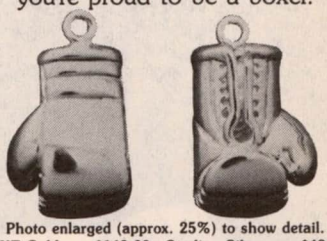

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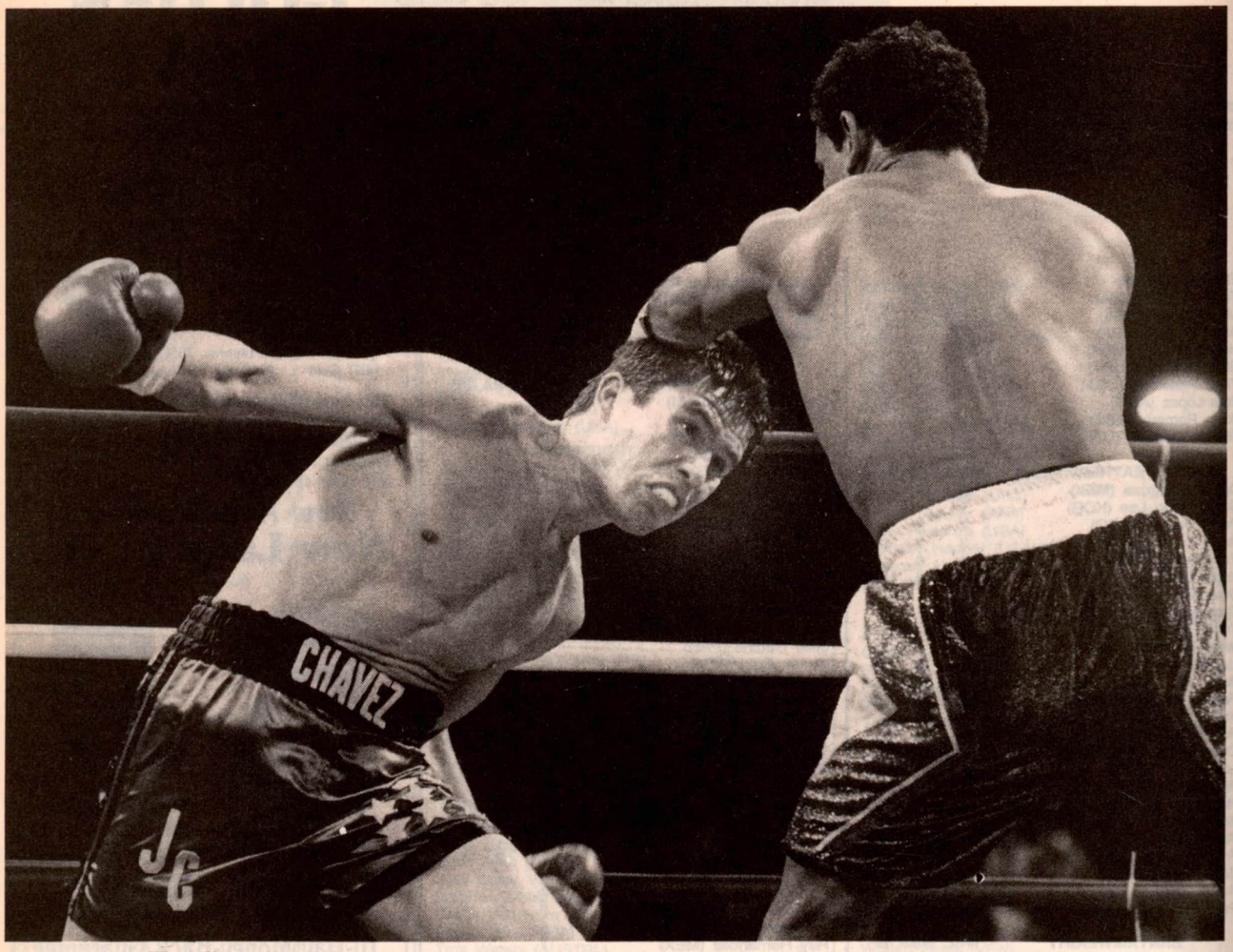
CHAVEZ-TAYLOR

(Continued from page 37)



When Chavez halted Edwin Rosario via 11th-round TKO and captured the WBC lightweight title, observers began measuring him for greatness. After vacating the 135-pound division, Chavez tried the junior welterweights and stopped Roger Mayweather to win his third crown. He is unbeaten in 66 pro bouts.

audiences.

That changed when Chavez blistered Rosario with an endless stream of shots, wearing him down before finally halting him in the 11th round.

"We saw something special there, so we kept bringing him back," Greenburg said. The Taylor fight will mark Chavez' sixth appearance on HBO.

Taylor's breakthrough performance was only slightly less spectacular. Widely dismissed as too inexperienced to deal with so accomplished a fighter as McGirt, Taylor dominated throughout with machine-gun combinations and was tearing into the exhausted champion when McGirt's corner surrendered in the 12th round.

"This is better than the gold medal," an ecstatic Taylor said at the time. "I'm king of the hill. This is the ultimate for me."

That, of course, was before the possibility of a bout with Chavez presented Taylor with a higher hill to climb.

STAFF PICKS

Stu Saks, Associate Publisher: "Taylor by decision. Chavez has trouble blocking punches he can *see* coming. Taylor's just too fast, and his confidence is soaring."

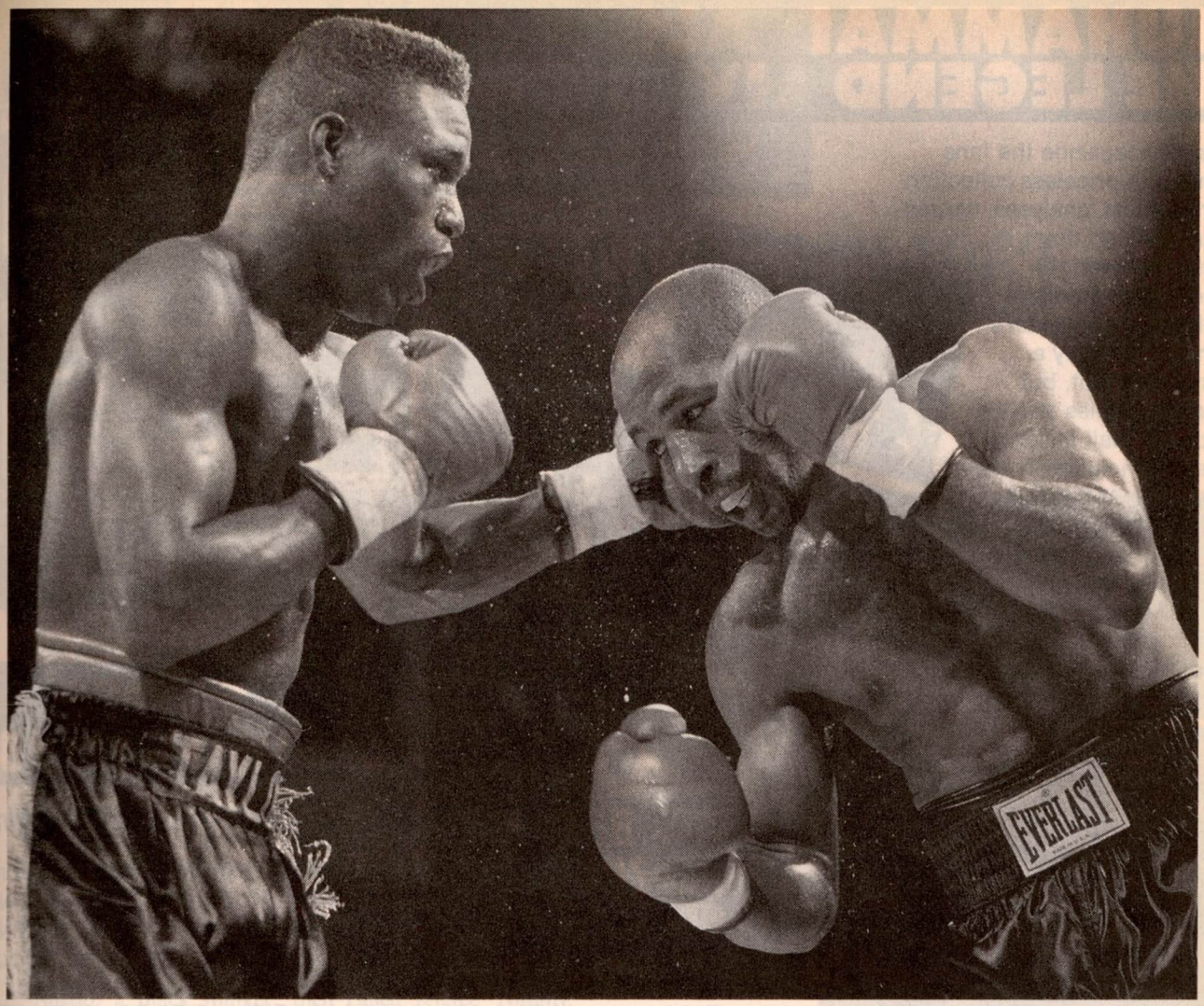
Jeff Ryan, Managing Editor: "Taylor by clear-cut decision. The fastest fighter in the game will counter Chavez' wide hooks with combinations up the middle and, to the surprise of many, outmuscle Chavez on the inside."

Rich Countis, Managing Editor: "Taylor, probably by a late kayo. His speed is incredible, a marvel to watch. Chavez, who has been overrated by many observers for many years, will be absolutely overwhelmed by Taylor's blinding, punishing fists."

Robert Cassidy, Associate Editor: "Taylor, a natural 140-pounder, will not wilt under Chavez' pressure and outspeed him en route to a decision win."

Joseph C. Tintle, Associate Editor: "Taylor will utilize his speed and strength to hand Chavez his first loss. It will come by split decision. Guaranteed."

Steve Farhood, Editor-in-Chief: "Chavez on points, especially if Taylor stands and fights. Taylor has the physical advantages, but if Chavez is a truly great fighter, and I think he is, he'll somehow manage to eke out a points win."



Taylor's last defense, a unanimous decision over Detroit's Courtney Hooper in September, was more difficult than had been expected. But it was Taylor's first bout after knee surgery, and he anticipates that he'll be much sharper against Chavez. Taylor figures to be a slight underdog in the unification battle.

The Chavez fight will be Taylor's first on HBO, but quite possibly not his last.

"We're on a fight-by-fight basis with Chavez," Greenburg said. "If Taylor beats Chavez, we certainly would want to follow his career in the same manner that we've followed Chavez'. But regardless of what happens, I don't think the loser will be that badly damaged. Even great fighters lose fights. Muhammad Ali once said it's the fighters who rise to the occasion and overcome the adversity of losing that are the true champions.

"If it's an outstanding fight, as we all believe it will be, there could be a rematch in the cards, either immediately or down the road. Who knows? Chavez-Taylor could wind up being a series, like Ali-Frazier or Leonard-Duran."

For now, however, Taylor and Chavez are concentrating only on the task at hand.

Taylor, not as hard a puncher as Chavez, is a remarkably adaptable sort who readily responds to the instructions of co-manager Lou Duva and trainer George Benton during the course of a fight.

"Meldrick can think on his feet," Duva said. "He's not a methodical fighter. He's able to make adjustments between rounds as well as any fighter we've ever had. And that's what you have to do against a fighter as good as Chavez. You can't just show him one thing for 12 rounds. There may be times when Meldrick will have to move on Chavez. There may be times when he'll have to stand toe-to-toe with him, or times when he'll have to turn him and spin him. But whatever he does, he'll make it work because of his incredible hand speed. Nobody gets off with his hands faster than Meldrick."

Chavez' strengths are no less formidable: With "J.C. Superstar," you're offered a complete fighter, with his *piece de resistance* being a short left hook to the side that breaks the spirit, if not the ribs, of most opponents.

"I think it will come down to how effectively Taylor can counterpunch," Bernstein said. "If he doesn't counterpunch well, he'll wind up with his back against the ropes and it'll be a replay of the Rosario fight."

Like Taylor, Chavez has a sense of destiny he believes must be fulfilled. "I was born with boxing in me," he said. "It is a gift God gave me."

The feeling here is that Taylor is perhaps a tad too quick for Chavez, but that is an opinion that is hardly shared by everyone.

"If you took 100 boxing experts, 50 would pick Taylor and 50 would pick Chavez," said Greenburg. "That's the beauty of this fight." □

(Bernard Fernandez is a boxing writer and columnist for the* Philadelphia Daily News.*)

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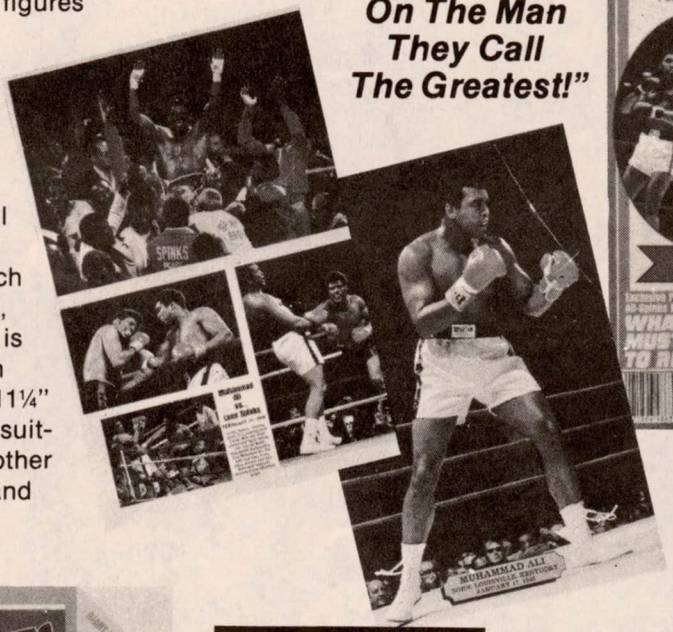

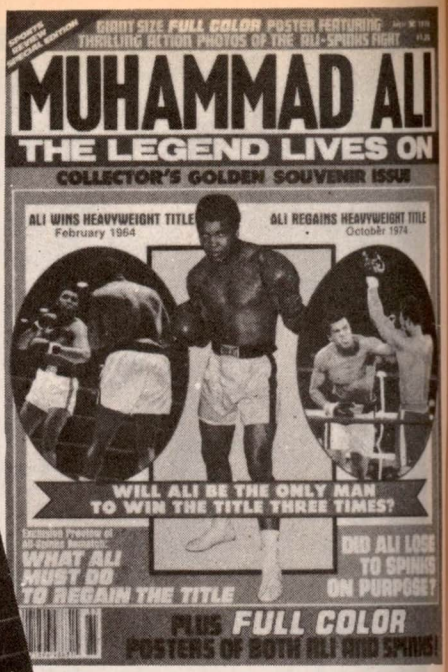

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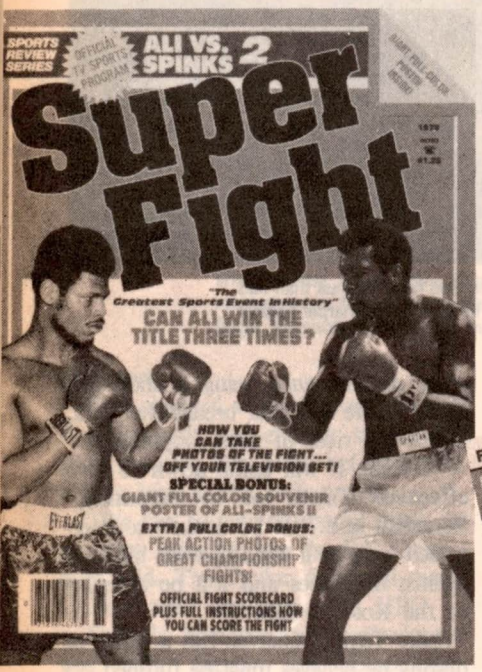
The Ali-Spinks II Preview Magazine



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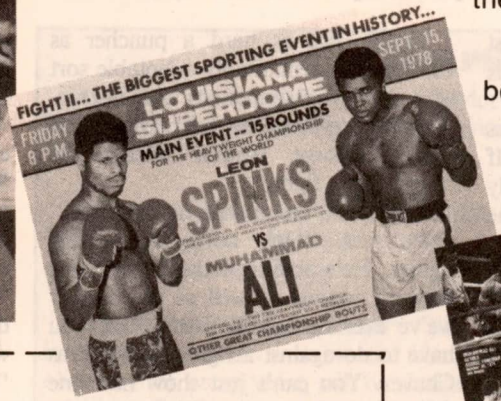

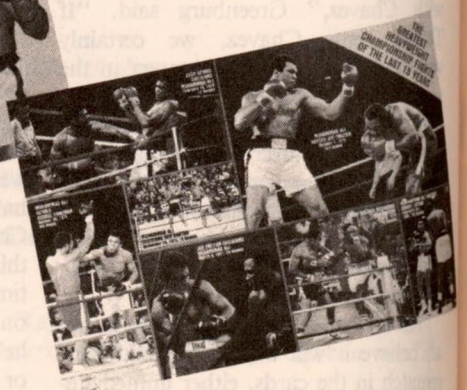

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CLASSIC

DID RIPPED GLOVE IN 1963 SAVE ALI'S FUTURE?

FROM *THE RING*, NOVEMBER 1975

By Ron Olver

LONDON, ENGLAND—Many incidents in boxing will be remembered long after others have been forgotten. A typical example in the United States would be the Dempsey-Tunney "long-count" controversy. In Britain, one that is still being talked about is the first Cooper-Clay fight in 1963, which included Clay being decked for only the second time in his career, and the story of the "split glove."

Imagine the excitement at Wembley Stadium on a June night in the open-air, more than 12 years ago. In the fourth round, Clay invited Cooper to try out his famed left hook to the chin. Henry did so, and down went Cass.

As the fans all stood up to get a better view, the bell rang. Clay staggered up, Angelo Dundee dashed across the ring to almost drag him back to the corner, and the boxer was completely surrounded by his seconds.

Angelo, a quick thinker, then called referee Tommy Little's attention to Clay's glove, which was split. What happened after that has never been quite clear.

All incidents have been magnified out of all proportions as the years have passed. All sorts of allegations have been made since then that weren't made at the time, and the chances are that it you talk to half-a-dozen fight fans, even those that were there, you'll get half-a-dozen different versions.

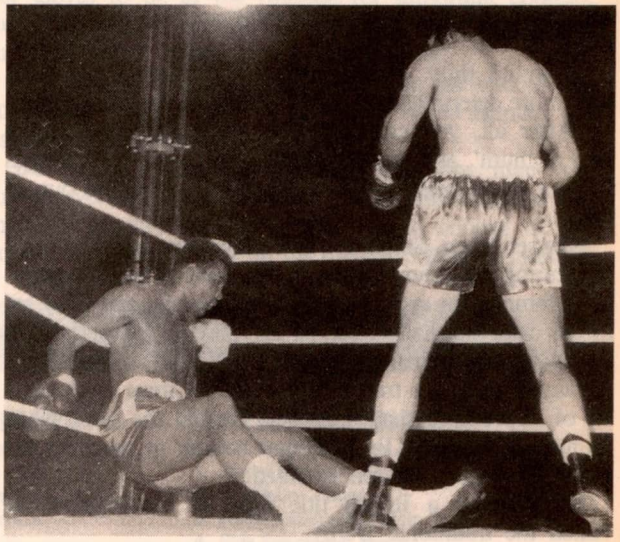
Time, then, to put the record straight, but let's first talk about the fight itself, the terrific buildup, and the general atmosphere that prevailed before the boxers actually entered the ring to do battle.

Besides being a fight promoter, Jack Solomons is an impresario. No expense is spared to gain the maximum publicity for any event he stages, and this fight was no exception.

Jack secured this fight in April 1963, and decided to stage it on June 18, when the horse racing season, including the running of the English Derby, was at its height in Britain. With the kind of money involved, possibly around 100,000 pounds, although no figures were ever revealed, the contest had to be in the open air.

As Jack once put it, "How much money I gross, and how much I net, is the business of only two people, the Tax Man and me."

So he selected Wembley Stadium, where three years later England was to win the World Cup. The venue holds 100,000 people.



Cassius Clay is felled by the famed left hook of Henry Cooper in the fourth round of their London battle in June 1963.

A ring was erected in the center of the turf, and special bridges were built to take the fans across track to their seats.

At that time, Clay, not yet world champion, was managed by a syndicate of 11 millionaires. They immediately chartered their own plane and ordered 100 ringside seats.

Clay arrived on May 27 with his entourage, which included brother Rudolph, sparmates Jimmy Ellis and Don Warner (both of whom would be boxing on the same bill), and bodyguard Ronald King. The Americans set up their training camp at the Drill Hall of the 10th Parachute Battalion of the Territorial Army in West London. Admission was free, and all sessions were inundated with fans eager to catch a glimpse of this man who, although only 21, had become such a character.

Having just endured a tiring 24-hour plane journey from Kentucky, Clay immediately launched into poetry for the benefit of the welcoming press, and continued without cessation until he entered the ring.

Every morning at 5 a.m., Cass would be in London's famous Hyde Park doing his roadwork, and he looked in peak condition.

My first meeting with Clay was when Solomons invited a party of boxing writers to a Sunday breakfast at the top of the Post Office Tower, the highest building in London, which has a revolving floor, so that all you have to do is

remain still and enjoy the magnificent panorama of Britain's capital city as it is unfolded before you.

As I remember, I arrived at around 8:30 a.m., a bit early for me on Sabbath Day, so perhaps I wasn't quite awake as I got into the lift. I was vaguely aware that someone else was there, too, and when we shot up to the top floor, a voice said, "That sure was quick." It was the actor, George Raft.

It was worth coming just to have had a long chat with George, but as usual, it was Clay who made the headlines.

On that occasion, he didn't have a lot to say; he was polite, answered questions freely, but it was the calm before the storm.

In the days that followed, Clay said some very unkind things about Cooper, such as, "If he behaves himself, I might let him last beyond five rounds. But if he starts popping [talking], I will have to dump him in three."

Henry, dignified as always, made no verbal retaliation, but the Clay boasts must have registered. At that time, I wrote:

"I would think that Henry is approaching this fight with more determination than any contest for a long time.

"After all, you can't listen to your opponent calling you a 'bum' and saying you'll last only three rounds without some urge to knock the living daylights out of him."

Between them, Solomons and Clay never missed a trick in securing maximum publicity. We went to Isow's restaurant, famous for sport and show-biz people, and Clay sat in the chair normally reserved for Sammy Davis Jr. and talked for the benefit of press and TV.

Clay stopped the traffic in Piccadilly Circus by doing a bit of impromptu shadowboxing. He did the same when he toured the West End to have a look at some of the clubs for which London is noted.

He went to a British title fight at Nottingham; he visited the traditional Derby.

All the top showmen from the United States have played the legendary London Palladium, and Clay was no exception. The official weigh-in was held there (another piece of good thinking by Solomons), and never can there have been so many people at this famous theater. The event was also televised, and Cooper and Clay laughed and joked together, neither showing signs of nerves.

Crowds lined the surrounding streets hours before the weigh-in was due. Clay had certainly captured the imagination of the British fans. He scaled 207, and Cooper 185½.

Both boxers were on a percentage of the gate, so it didn't help when it rained most of the fight day. However, the weather did improve in the evening, but it is probable that the early rain kept many would-be spectators away.

The fans enjoyed listening to the band of the Coldstream Guards and took part in community singing prior to the boxing. When it was time for the feature attraction, there were gasps when Clay entered the ring wearing a red and white ankle-length dressing gown. On the back was "Cassius Clay The Greatest."

But the article that caused most controversy was his cardboard crown. On the TV recording of the fight, commentator Harry Carpenter remarked: "Coming into the ring wearing that ridiculous crown, many may think he is doing his best to cheapen the fight game. And I must say I agree."

Cooper wore a blue and white gown bearing the words "Henry Cooper. England."

As to the fight itself, this is what I wrote:

"Rarely have I been so proud to be British than sitting at the ringside watching Cooper wade into Cass from the first bell as if he had named the round in which he would win, instead of the American.

"It was the most impressive first round by Cooper or any other British heavyweight against a world-rated fighter for many years.

"As for Clay, his pride must have suffered in the first couple of rounds, and he didn't really come into his own until Henry was handicapped."

Cooper's eye was cut in the second, and the injury gradually worsened. But then came the fourth-round knockdown. I couldn't hear the count—it was three or four at most, when the bell ended the session.

The events that followed I have already described, but to the best of my knowledge, no one has ever interviewed all the principles connected with the "split glove" incident.

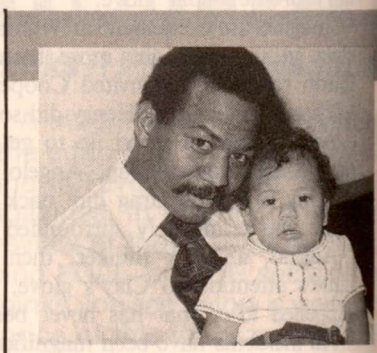
First of all, referee Tommy Little retired from the sport several years ago, and not much has been heard of him since. I traced Tommy to his tobacconist-confectionery shop in Chertsey.

"My part was simple," said Tommy. "When the round ended, I was immediately called to Clay's corner and shown the split glove. I then went to the ringside and asked for a replacement. When I got the sign, that was all there was. I gave the instruction for the next round to commence."

Next in action was Teddy Waltham, then general secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, himself a fine boxer in his day, and a world-class referee, who, long after he had officially given up acting as third man, was called upon to referee world title fights in different parts of the globe.

I spoke to him on the telephone at his home in North London, and later met him personally. He retired from his job as secretary a few years ago, but still keeps in touch with the sport.

Teddy told me, "Referee Little was called to Clay's corner, and then shouted to us officials at ringside for a new pair, which I already had quite near. There was no question of any-



Jose Napoles with son Angel

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay),** Chicago, IL

1. **George Foreman, Hayward, CA**
2. **Joe Frazier, Philadelphia, PA**
3. **Ken Norton, San Diego, CA**
4. **Jimmy Young, Philadelphia, PA**
5. **Bunny Johnson, England**
6. **Joe Bugner, England**
7. **Earnie Shavers, Warren, OH**
8. **Ron Lyle, Denver, CO**
9. **Chuck Wepner, Bayonne, NJ**
10. **Oscar Bonavena, Argentina**

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Title Vacant**

1. **Victor Galindez, Argentina**
2. **John Conteh, England**
3. **Len Hutchins, Detroit, MI**
4. **Richie Kates, Philadelphia, PA**
5. **Tom Bethea, New York, NY**
6. **Bobby Cassidy, Brentwood, NY**
7. **Jesse Burnett, Los Angeles, CA**
8. **Alvaro Lopez, Stockton, CA**
9. **Pierre Fourie, South Africa**
10. **Bob Foster, Washington, DC**

one having to go to the dressing room to get them, as has been suggested.

"Without any delay, I took them up into Clay's corner and handed them over to his seconds. The gloves were changed in my presence, and I was quite satisfied that everything had been done according to the rules and as quickly as possible.

Cooper's wound, a hideous cut over his left eye, led to the stoppage.

"How long did the whole operation take? I would estimate around five minutes."

Next I talked to Harry Vines, now chief inspector of the Board, whose memory of the incident is also a vivid one. I spoke to him on the day he returned from Italy, where he was struck on the shoulder by a bottle thrown by a spectator after Ken Buchanan had kept his European lightweight title vs. Giancarlo Usai.

Harry went on to give his recollection of the Cooper-Clay incident.

"As soon as the bell ended the round, Angelo Dundee leaped into the ring to escort Clay to his corner, which in no time at all was completely surrounded by his seconds.

"Dundee then called referee Tommy Little's attention to the split glove, and Tommy in turn called for a replacement. There was, of course, a little confusion, as no one was quite sure what was going on. But there was a suitable pair at the ringside, and these were taken to Clay's corner.

"I am not sure whether both gloves were replaced, or just the split one, but the latter certainly was, and no time was wasted in getting the gloves to the corner. Certainly no one had to go all the way back to the dressing room to get a pair.

"There was no rule, but it was fairly normal practice for gloves to be at the ringside for important contests, and this incident proved this policy to be a sound one, and one which is now always carried out.

"As to the time that elapsed between the end of one round and the beginning of the next, I would estimate this as around five minutes."

But as in any query regarding time, the man who knows everything is the timekeeper. Britain's number one in this category, Stan Courtney, was in control of this contest and doesn't rely on his memory. Every contest he

THE RING RATINGS, *November 1975*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Carlos Monzon,** Argentina
1. Rodrigo Valdez, Colombia
2. Gratien Tonna, France
3. Vito Antuofermo, Brooklyn, NY
4. Tony Licata, New Orleans, LA
5. George Cooper, Oakland, CA
6. Willie Monroe, Philadelphia, PA
7. Rudy Robles, Los Angeles, CA
8. Bennie Briscoe, Philadelphia, PA
9. Emile Griffith, New York, NY
10. Leo Saenz, Baltimore, MD

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Jae Do Yuh,** South Korea
1. Miguel de Oliviera, Brazil
2. Elisha Obed, Bahamas
3. Mike Baker, Spartanburg, SC
4. Koichi Wajima, Japan
5. Miguel Castellini, Argentina
6. Eckhart Dagge, Germany
7. Miguel Campanino, Argentina
8. Jose Duran, Spain
9. James Marshall, San Francisco, CA
10. Maurice Hope, England

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Jose Napoles,** Mexico
1. Angel Espada, Mexico
2. John Stracey, England
3. Clyde Gray, Canada
4. Johnny Gant, Washington, DC
5. Nick Ortiz, Puerto Rico
6. Armando Muniz, Los Angeles, CA
7. Bruno Arcari, Italy
8. Fausto Rodriguez, Dominican Republic
9. Hedgemon Lewis, Detroit, MI
10. Rocky Mattioli, Australia

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Antonio Cervantes,** Colombia
1. Hector Thompson, Australia
2. Shengsak Muangsurin, Thailand
3. Monroe Brooks, Los Angeles, CA
4. Leoncio Ortiz, Mexico
5. Esteban DeJesus, Puerto Rico
6. Pedro Fernandez, Spain
7. Tony Petronelli, Brockton, MA
8. Lou Bizzarro, Erie, PA
9. Cemal Kamaci, Austria
10. Carlos Giminez, Argentina

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Roberto Duran,** Panama
1. Ray Lampkin, Portland, OR
2. Angel Mayoral, Las Vegas, NV
3. Ishimatsu Suzuki, Japan
4. Hector Medina, Puerto Rico
5. Frankie Benitez, Puerto Rico
6. Buzzsaw Yamabe, Philippines
7. Randy Shields, Los Angeles, CA
8. Arturo Pineda, Mexico
9. Bobby Chacon, Los Angeles, CA
10. Nani Marrero, Dominican Republic

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Ben Villaflor,** Philippines
1. Tyrone Everett, Philadelphia, PA
2. Sven-Erik Paulsen, Norway
3. Alfredo Escalera, Puerto Rico
4. Hugo Barraza, Colombia
5. Samuel Serrano, Puerto Rico
6. Ben Ortiz, Puerto Rico
7. Vilomar Fernandez, Dominican Republic
8. Ray Lunny III, San Carlos, CA
9. Ronnie McGarvey, Hillcrest Heights, MD
10. Kuniaki Shibata, Japan

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Alexis Arguello,** Nicaragua
1. Ruben Olivares, Mexico
2. Art Hafey, Canada
3. Royal Kobayashi, Japan
4. Shig Fukuyama, Japan
5. Elio Cotina, Italy
6. Arnold Taylor, South Africa
7. Jose Casas, Argentina
8. Octavio Gomez, Mexico
9. Danny Lopez, Los Angeles, CA
10. Lionel Hernandez, Venezuela

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Alfonso Zamora,** Mexico
1. Rodolfo Martinez, Mexico
2. Thanomjit Sukothai, Mexico
3. Carlos Zarate, Mexico
4. Eusebio Pedroza, Panama
5. Soo Hwan Hong, South Korea
6. Andres Hernandez, Puerto Rico
7. Dave Needham, England
8. Daniel Troulaire, France
9. Gilbert Illueca, Panama
10. Paul Ferreri, Australia

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champion: **Miguel Canto,** Mexico
1. Shoji Oguma, Japan
2. Ignacio Espinoza, Dominican Republic
3. Betulio Gonzalez, Venezuela
4. Alberto Morales, Mexico
5. Erbito Salvarria, Philippines
6. Vicente Pool, Mexico
7. Jaime Rios, Panama
8. Franco Sperti, Italy
9. Luis Estabe, Venezula
10. Alfonso Lopez, Panama

has ever refereed is written down in notebooks, together with all details, including every incident.

Stan told me, "Clay got up at four. He seemed okay, and was hustled to his corner by his seconds. Board Secretary Teddy Waltham, sitting at the ringside, had a pair of gloves by his side, and took them up into Clay's corner. As far as I remember, he stayed there while the job of fitting on the new pair was completed.

"At no time was I instructed to stop my watch to allow for the re-fitting of the gloves. Therefore, I waited until I got the signal from referee Little to ring the bell. When I did so my watch showed that the interval between rounds had in fact been one minute and 40 seconds."

This is official. So even Teddy and Harry could be misled when it came to assessing time. The reason is a simple one—when you are doing something, and concentrating on it, you can have no idea of how quickly, or slowly, time is passing.

So there you have it. The time was only 40 seconds over the alloted one-minute rest, not five minutes, or four, or even three.

Now what about the split glove? Was this a genuine split that happened during the boxing, or had someone deliberately split the glove, as has been alleged?

Firstly, a photograph was published by the *London Daily Mirror,* purporting to show that the glove was actually split in the fourth round, where bits of material seem to be flying around off Clay's glove.

But there is nothing like an eyewitness, and boxing writer Reg Gutteridge, also a top TV commentator, wrote the following in the *London Evening News & Star:*

"I have just examined the controversial split glove that Clay wielded against Cooper. The tear, *which definitely happened before Clay was knocked down,* was at the base of the thumb. It was impossible for Clay's knuckles to have 'bared.' The sponge padding is a complete strip over the hand."

That would seem to be that. But the fight itself. Although no official inquiry was held, Clay's fall served to bring a change in the rules. In the future, the count would continue when a boxer was on the canvas at the end of a round, and that he must not be helped off the canvas or even touched by anyone until he has either been counted out or gets up under his own steam.

It is history, of course, that Clay made a full recovery during the extended interval, and went on to stop Henry in the following round on an eye injury.

Even that caused controversy. Referee Little told me that he had stopped the fight because he wanted to save Cooper from possible permanent injury to his eye.

I must admit from outside the ring that the injury looked a bad one, yet Frank Butler wrote in the *News Of The World* that Cooper's eye "did not require *one* stitch, illustrating how exaggerated were the reports of the injury. Blood always looks messy, but the wound was far from terrible," Butler wrote.

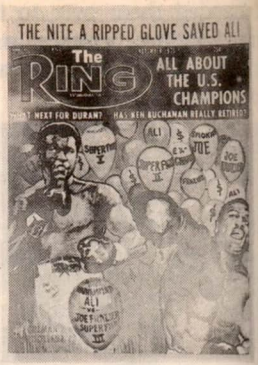
There was always a lot of fuss made about Cooper's injury-prone eyes, but before this particular contest, Henry had lost only *two* bouts on eye injuries, to Uber Bacilieri in 1955, and to Peter Bates in 1956.

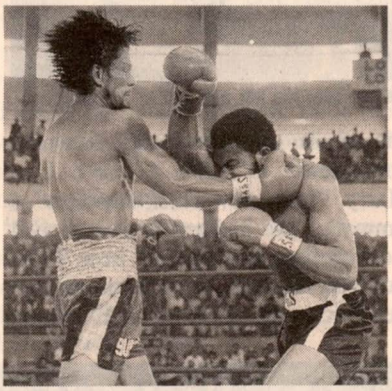
In his very next fight, Clay won the world title by stopping Sonny Liston. Cooper and Clay met again, with the latter's title at stake, in 1966. No controversy this time, and again an eye injury caused the fight to be stopped in Clay's favor, in the sixth round.

But that's another story. □

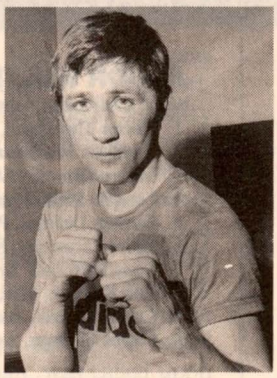
THE RING, November 1975

The Cover: With Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier dominating the headlines, Associate Editor Daniel M. Daniel examines the "forgotten heavyweight," George Foreman. Foreman wouldn't be forgotten for long, however. In January 1976, he would engage in one of the greatest heavyweight brawls of all time with Ron Lyle. And after stopping Lyle, he would kayo Frazier for a second time. But there would be no rematch with Ali, and in 1977, Foreman left boxing for more than 10 years.

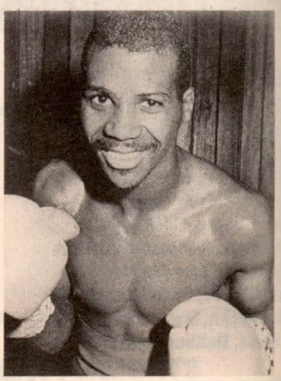




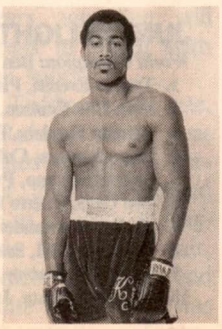
Next For Duran: In late 1975, world lightweight champion Roberto Duran was in the middle of one of the longest title reigns of all time. Coming off a particularly brutal kayo of the respected Ray Lampkin, Duran would stop Leoncio Ortiz in December, and then defend five more times before vacating the throne and rising in weight.



Buchanan's Farewell: British journalist Ron Olver examines the shocking retirement of former lightweight champion Ken Buchanan, who said goodbye after retaining the European 135-pound crown over Giancarlo Usai. As it turned out, Buchanan would return in 1979, but compile a comeback mark of only 5-5.



The Charm Of The "Snake Man": Puerto Rican correspondent Mario Rivera profiles newly crowned WBC junior lightweight champion Alfredo Escalera, who returned to his native San Juan after an upset defeat of Japan's Kuniaki Shibata. "If he maintains this condition," Rivera wrote, "he should be champion for quite a while." Rivera proved prophetic: Escalera would successfully defend the crown 10 times.



Fighter Of The Month: Heavyweight Ken Norton, who had split two memorable battles with Muhammad Ali, was the month's winner, based on his fifth-round stoppage of archrival Jose Garcia in St. Paul, Minnesota. Garcia had knocked out a then-undefeated Norton in eight rounds in 1970.

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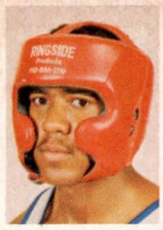

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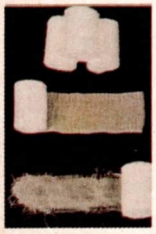

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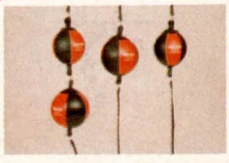

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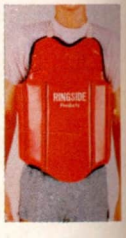

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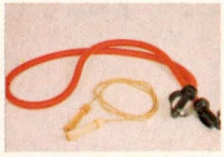

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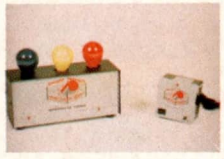

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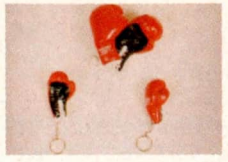

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